



WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF

GEO. HOWLAND COX,
WILLIAM M. RICHARDSON,
EDMUND REARDON,

PARK COMMISSIONERS.





RIVER PARK, FORMERLY SCORGIE STREET.

City of Cambridge

C.R.

PARK DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORTS

.. 1898 ..



PRINTED FOR THE DEPARTMENT

Cambridge:
The Chronicle Press.
1899

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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.



To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of Cambridge:

Gentlemen:—The Board of Park Commissioners has the honor to submit herewith its sixth annual report, for the year ending November 30, 1898, and also the fifth annual report of the General Superintendent of Parks, as required by Section 4 of the Ordinance establishing a Park Department.

On May 3, 1898, the Board submitted the following recommendation:—

CAMBRIDGE, May 3, 1898.

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of Cambridge:

Gentlemen:—The Park Commissioners recommend that the betterments assessed upon the lands of Harriet A. Porter adjoining the Esplanade and certain streets as specified in the accompanying order, be assumed by the City, in consideration of and upon the conveyance by her to said City of certain of her lands near said Esplanade.

Respectfully,

GEO. HOWLAND COX,

President of the Board.

In accordance with above recommendation, the following order was adopted May 4, 1898, and approved by the Mayor May 11, 1898:

Ordered:—That His Honor, the Mayor, be and hereby is requested and authorized for and in behalf of the City of Cambridge to enter into an agreement with Harriet A. Porter to the effect that in consideration of and upon the conveyance by her to said City of certain of her lands near the Esplanade and near lands of the Charles River Embankment Co. and others, shown as streets on a plan entitled "Plan of Land Conveyed to City of Cambridge by the Charles River Embankment Co. et al., by deed dated Oct. 18, 1897," the City will assume any betterments assessed and that may be assessed upon other land of said Harriet A. Porter adjoining said streets and adjoining said Esplanade, shown upon said plan, by reason of the laying out and construction of said Esplanade; and further, that the City will agree that whenever a building or buildings may be erected upon said land, abutting upon such streets to be conveyed as aforesaid, and when said building or buildings shall be ready for occupancy that it will immediately upon notice thereof in writing by said Harriet A. Porter put the streets upon which said building abuts in order for public travel from the said buildings to an existing public thoroughfare within a reasonable time.

On July 5, 1898, the Board submitted the following report and recommendations:—

CAMBRIDGE, July 5, 1898.

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of Cambridge:

Gentlemen:—The Board of Park Commissioners respectfully recommend to the City Council, that the City take, under the authority granted by Chapter 341 of the Acts of 1892, entitled "An Act to authorize the City of Cambridge to lay out and maintain public parks," and Chapter 337 of the Acts of 1893, amendatory thereto, the parcels of land described in the accompanying order, lying on the easterly side of Bath Street.

The Commissioners recommend this taking in order to enable

them to construct a more suitable approach to the River Parkway from Mt. Auburn Street than at present exists. This construction is recommended by the Landscape Architects, and involves the widening of a portion of the present Bath Street on its easterly side.

Respectfully,

GEO. HOWLAND COX,

W. M. RICHARDSON,

Park Commissioners.

The following order for taking the land recommended in above report was adopted by both branches of the City Council July 5, 1898, and approved by the Mayor July 6, 1898.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, July 5, 1898.

Whereas, by Chapter 341 of the Acts of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the year 1892, entitled "An Act to authorize the City of Cambridge to lay out and maintain public parks," and accepted by the City Council of the City of Cambridge, by a resolve approved June 15, 1892, and by Chapter 337 of the Acts of the Legislature for the year 1893, amendatory of said Chapter 341, it is provided that said City "by its City Council at any time after the passage of this Act may take and hold by purchase or otherwise, any and all such real estate and lands within said City as it may deem advisable, upon the recommendation of the board of Park Commissioners hereinafter mentioned, and may lay out and maintain and improve the same as a public park or parks"—and

Whereas, It is deemed advisable upon the recommendation of said board of Park Commissioners that the City should, under the provisions of the aforesaid acts, take and hold for the purpose of improving the same as a public park or parks, the several lots or parcels of land hereinafter bounded and described, and

Whereas, "An appropriation sufficient to cover the estimated expense thereof" has been duly made by the City Council, as required by Section 3, of the aforesaid Chapter 337, of the Acts of the Legislature of 1893,—

Now, therefore, be it known, that by virtue and in pursuance

of the authority conferred by said acts of the Legislature, and by every other power and authority it hereto enabling, the City of Cambridge, by its City Council, does hereby take for the purpose aforesaid the following described lots or parcels of land, all situated within the limits of said City, to wit:—

All the lands with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows:—

Beginning at the intersection of the easterly line of Bath Street with the proposed park line, which intersection is 5.00 feet southerly measured on said easterly line of Bath Street from a stone bound at the intersection of said easterly line of Bath Street with the division line between land of Annie Coleman and land of heirs of George O. Danforth; thence running southerly along said easterly line of Bath Street 193.34 feet to a tangent point of a curved line of 30 feet radius in the present park line; thence southerly and southeasterly along said curved line 31.19 feet to a point of reversed curve with a curved line of 5,581.73 feet radius; thence southeasterly along said curved line 351.68 feet; thence northwesterly along the proposed park line 80.00 feet to a point of curve with a curved line of 1,400 feet radius; thence northwesterly along said curved line 234.68 feet to a compounding point with a curve of 172.31 feet radius; thence northwesterly and northerly along said curved line 139.38 feet to a tangent point; thence northerly 89.14 feet to the intersection of the proposed park line with the easterly line of Bath Street at the point of beginning, containing 6,988 square feet.

The foregoing described lands are shown upon a plan entitled "Plan of Land Taken for Park Purposes at the South End of Bath Street," dated July 1, 1898, drawn and signed by Lewis M. Hastings, City Engineer, and on file in the office of the City Engineer, a copy of which plan is to be recorded in the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds, reference to which is hereby made for a more particular description of the lots taken, and said lands are supposed to belong to the persons hereinafter named, to wit:—

A parcel of land supposed to belong to Annie Coleman, bounded as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the easterly line of Bath Street with the proposed park line, which intersection is 5.00 feet southerly, measured on said easterly line of Bath Street from a stone bound at its intersection with the division line between land of Annie Coleman and land of heirs of George O. Danforth; thence running southerly along said easterly line of Bath Street 29.41 feet to an angle, thence southerly again 9.01 feet on the easterly side of Bath Street to its intersection with the division line between land of Coleman and land of Ellen M. Dinsmore, thence southeasterly along said division line 8.45 feet to its intersection with the proposed park line, thence northerly along said park line 39.78 feet to its intersection with the easterly line of Bath Street at the point of beginning, containing 184 square feet.

A parcel of land supposed to belong to Ellen M. Dinsmore, bounded as follows, viz.:

Beginning at the intersection of the easterly line of Bath Street with the division line between land of Ellen M. Dinsmore and land of Annie Coleman, and running southerly along said easterly line of Bath Street 32.34 feet to its intersection with the division line between land of Dinsmore and land of the Cambridge Gas Light Company; thence easterly along said division line 11.37 feet to its intersection with the proposed park line; thence northerly along said park line 33.02 feet to its intersection with the division line between land of Dinsmore and land of Coleman; thence northwesterly along said division line 8.45 feet to its intersection with the easterly line of Bath Street at the point of beginning, containing 315 square feet.

A parcel of land supposed to belong to the Cambridge Gas Light Company, bounded as follows, viz.:

Beginning at the intersection of the easterly line of Bath Street with the division line between land of Cambridge Gas Light Company and land of Ellen M. Dinsmore, and running southerly along said line of Bath Street 83.15 feet to its intersection with the division line between land of Gas Company and land of Ellen O'Hara, thence southeasterly along said division line 24.42 feet to its intersection with the proposed park line, which line is a curved line of 172.31 feet radius, thence north-

erly along said curved line 72.23 feet to a tangent point, thence northerly again on the proposed park line 16.34 feet to its intersection with the division line between land of Gas Company and land of Ellen M. Dinsmore; thence northwesterly along said division line 11.37 feet to its intersection with the easterly line of Bath Street at the point of beginning, containing 1,113 square feet.

A parcel of land supposed to belong to Ellen O'Hara, bounded as follows, viz.:

Beginning at the intersection of the easterly side of Bath Street with the northerly division line between land of Ellen O'Hara and land of Cambridge Gas Light Company, and running southerly 36.47 feet to its intersection with the southerly division line between land of O'Hara and land of Gas Company; thence southeasterly along said division line 56.00 feet to its intersection with the proposed park line, which line is a curved line of 172.31 feet radius; thence northerly along said curved line 53.66 feet to its intersection with the division line between land of O'Hara and land of Gas Company, thence northwesterly along said division line 24.42 feet to its intersection with the easterly line of Bath Street at the point of beginning, containing 1,353 square feet.

A parcel of land supposed to belong to the Cambridge Gas Light Company, bounded and described as follows, viz.:

Beginning at the intersection of the easterly line of Bath Street and the present park line with the division line between land of Cambridge Gas Light Company and land of Ellen O'Hara, and running southerly along said present park line 2.96 feet to a tangent point in said line; thence southerly and southeasterly along said line 31.19 feet to a point of reversed curve, said line being a curved line of 30 feet radius; thence southeasterly along said park line 351.68 feet to a compounding point, said line being a curved line of 5,581.73 feet radius; thence northwesterly along the proposed park line 80.00 feet to a point of curve with a curved line of 1,400 feet radius; thence northwesterly 234.68 feet along said curved line to a point of compound curve with a curve of 172.31 feet radius; thence northwesterly along said curved line 13.49 feet to its intersection with

the division line between land of Gas Company and land of O'Hara; thence along said division line 56.00 feet to its intersection with the easterly side of Bath Street and the present park line at the point of beginning, containing 4,023 square feet.

So, therefore, be it known, that the several parcels of land, together with all the buildings and structures thereon, hereinbefore mentioned and particularly described, on this fifth day of July, A. D. 1898, are hereby taken by the City of Cambridge as aforesaid, for the purpose hereinbefore set forth, assessments for the cost and expenses thereof to be laid under the provisions of Sections 6 and 7 of said Chapter 341 of the Acts of 1892; and it is hereby

Ordered, That in accordance with the requirements of Section 2 of said Chapter 341 of the Acts of the year 1892, hereinbefore mentioned, the City Clerk be and hereby is directed to cause to be recorded in the Registry of Deeds of the Southern District of the County of Middlesex, a description of the aforesaid taking sufficiently accurate for identification, with a statement of the purpose for which the same were taken, which statement shall be signed by the Mayor.

On Sept. 27, 1898, the Board submitted the following report and recommendation:—

CAMBRIDGE, SEPT. 27, 1898.

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of Cambridge:

Gentlemen:—The Park Commissioners respectfully recommend to the City Council that the City discontinues that portion of Bath Street lying between Mount Auburn Street and Charles River Road.

The owners of the land abutting on this portion of Bath Street have agreed to deed to the City any right or fee which they may have in said portion of Bath Street.

Respectfully,

H. E. WHITING,

Clerk of the Board.

The following order for discontinuing the street and for taking the land recommended in above report was adopted by both branches of the City Council December 6, 1898, and approved by the Mayor December 7, 1898.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Dec. 6, 1898.

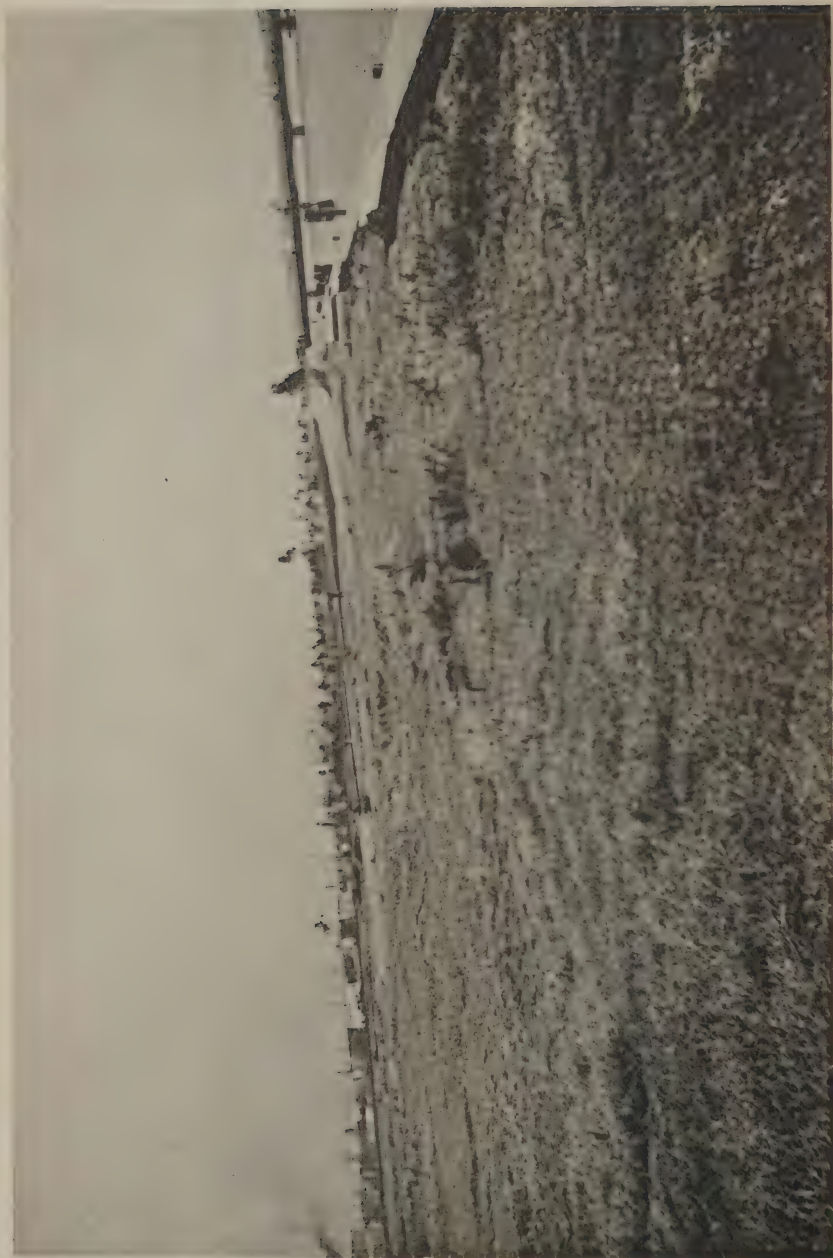
Whereas, It is adjudged by this Board to be necessary that a certain portion of Bath Street, now under the control of the board of Park Commissioners of the City of Cambridge, should be discontinued, and

Whereas, due notice has been given, according to law, of the intention of this Board to discontinue the aforesaid portion of Bath Street, hereinafter described and bounded, as a public way of the City of Cambridge, and

Whereas, James D. Hill, Elizabeth F. Hill, B. Otis Danforth, Executor, and George P. Bemis, Trustee, being all the several owners of lands abutting on the said portion of Bath Street to be discontinued as aforesaid, have by the accompanying instrument, and for sufficient consideration duly remised, released and forever quit-claimed unto the City of Cambridge the land included within the area of the aforesaid portion of Bath Street, so to be discontinued, it is hereby

Ordered:—That so much of said Bath Street as lies between Mount Auburn Street and a point about two hundred and nine and forty-two hundredths (209.42) feet southerly, be and the same hereby is discontinued as a public way, the portion of said street so discontinued as a public way being bounded and described as follows:—

Beginning at a point in the present southeasterly line of Bath Street at its intersection with the southerly line of Mount Auburn Street; thence southwesterly along said line of Bath Street about two hundred and nine and forty-two hundredths (209.42) feet to its intersection with the proposed new easterly line of Bath Street; thence northerly along said proposed new easterly line about fifty-one (51) feet to its intersection with the present northwesterly line of Bath Street; thence northeasterly along said present northwesterly line of Bath Street, parallel to and thirty (30) feet distant northwesterly from the present south-



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SECTION OF ESPLANADE, WEST OF HARVARD BRIDGE, UNIMPROVED.

easterly line of Bath Street about one hundred and thirty and six tenths (130.6) feet to its intersection with the southerly line of Mount Auburn Street; thence easterly along said southerly line of Mount Auburn Street about fifty-three and seven tenths (53.7) feet to its intersection with the present southeasterly line of Bath Street at the point of beginning; containing about fifty-one hundred (5,100) square feet.

The above described parcel of land is shown on a plan entitled "City of Cambridge: Park Department, Plan of Land Taken for Park Purposes at the South End of Bath Street," drawn by L. M. Hastings, City Engineer, dated July 1, 1898, and on file in the office of the City Engineer, Cambridge, Mass.

CONSTRUCTION.

SECTION A. ESPLANADE EXTENSION EAST.

During the year the sea wall has been completed and properly ballasted. A contract was made with the New England Dredging Company to fill the Esplanade to grade 21, Cambridge base, for the sum of twelve and one fourth cents per square foot. The owners of the adjacent flats made a similar contract with the same company at the same time. It is probable that the entire filling will be done by February first, 1899. The areas enclosed and filled are as follows, viz.:

Esplanade	471,360 square feet.
Private lands	793,703 " "
City lots	46,626 " "
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Total	1,311,689 square feet.

The cost of this Esplanade extension, including wall, foundations, ballast and filling, will be about \$148,500.00, or 31½ cents per square foot. The cost of the roadway, walks, lawns and planting will be about 6 cents per square foot additional.

SECTION B. ESPLANADE.

The Esplanade for a distance of one thousand feet either side of Massachusetts Avenue has been treated during the year; the

lawns and driveways completed, and many trees set out. The surface drains and catch basins have been put in and the sidewalks brought to finished grade. It is probable that the early spring will witness the beginning of building operations.

SECTION D. BROOKLINE STREET TO RIVER STREET.

The roadway across the marsh from Brookline Street to Magazine Street Extension has been filled and brought to grade and Magazine Street also filled and brought to its proper width. The filling was taken from the bed of the river and is a clean gravel admirably suited for the purpose of road building. A playground has been leveled and put in condition for use, which will be of great service to the boys of Ward Four.

A dyke which will follow the shore of the river to Brookline Street is being constructed and will enclose the entire playground.

All of the areas east of Magazine Street will be thoroughly drained and the salt marshes thereby gradually changed to fresh water meadows.

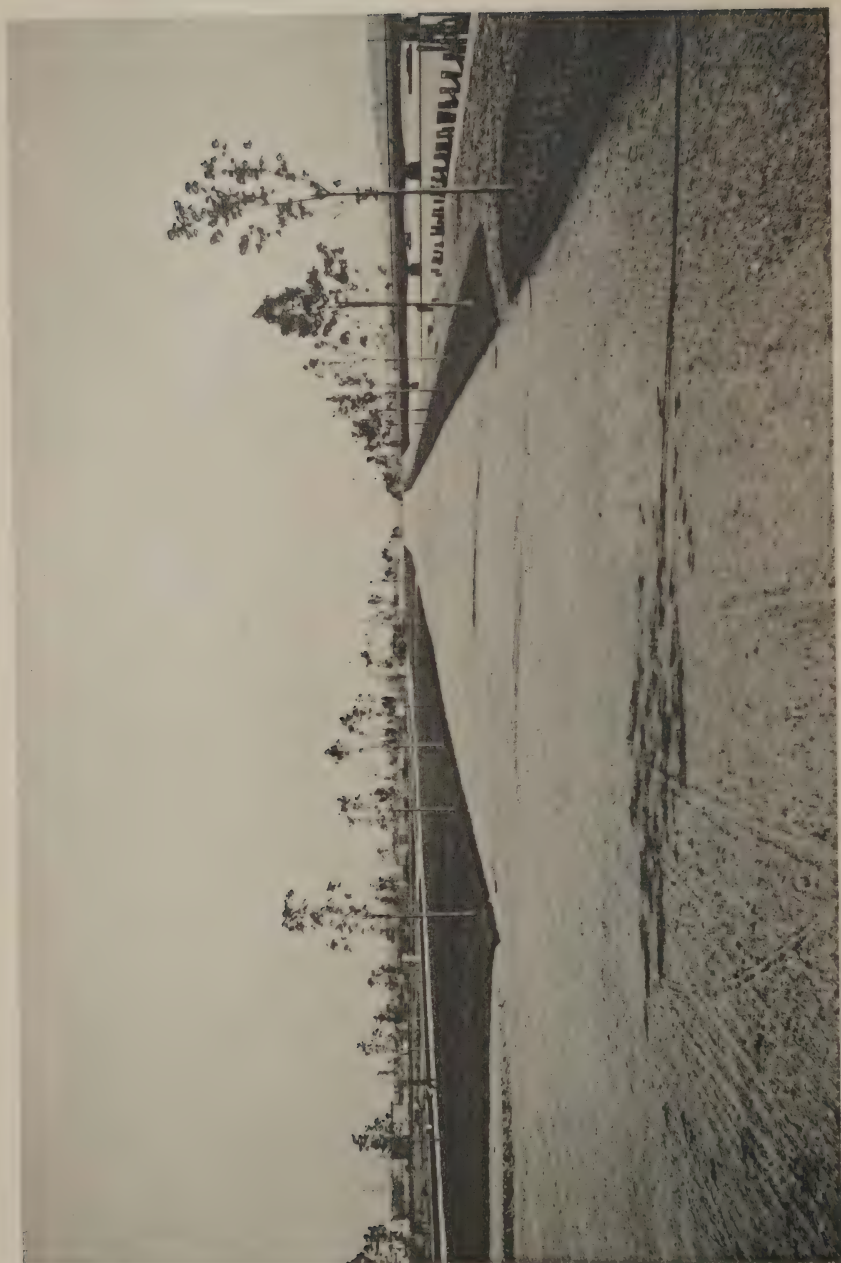
The adaptability of the shore at the foot of Magazine Street for bathing is such that it would be a wise provision for the City to cause to be erected such a bath house as would accommodate the large number of people who use the river for bathing purposes. A bath house erected on the shore would be cheaper both in construction and in maintenance than the floating bath houses such as are in use at the bridges. A clean gravel beach is much more desirable, and at this point is easily attainable.

SECTION E. RIVER STREET TO WESTERN AVENUE.

The Park Commissioners have given careful consideration to alternative schemes of making the connection between River Street and Western Avenue, and will later recommend to the City Government that the driveway be continued along the river, in the rear of the buildings of the Riverside Press and the Electric Light Company.

SECTION F. WESTERN AVENUE TO BOYLSTON STREET.

The roadway and planting spaces east of Boylston Street as



THE ESPLANADE, WEST OF HARVARD BRIDGE, IMPROVED.

far as the canal at Richardson & Bacon's coal wharf have been completed. The balance of the tree planting will be done in the spring and the shore regraded.

Extensive alterations have been made to the Weld Boat Club House, and the building is architecturally much improved. No work has been done between Richardson & Bacon's wharf and Western Avenue.

SECTION G. BOYLSTON STREET TO CAMBRIDGE HOSPITAL.

The attention of the Commissioners has been given to the completion of this section of the river park. The road from Boylston Street has been graded and resurfaced; the loam and planting spaces completed; Bath Street widened and regraded and made part of the park driveway, which in the future will be known as Charles River Road. The driveway is well lighted and policed, and its completion serves to illustrate to our citizens the possibilities for usefulness and beauty which some day will be found along the entire Cambridge bank of the river.

SECTION H.

In the report for 1897 the Board stated that it was proposing to enter into some arrangement with the trustees of the Cambridge Hospital, to extend the present park beach along the Hospital shores, with a path for foot travel as far as Gerry's Landing. In the press of other matters no progress has been made in the way of negotiations. Surveys and sketches of the proposed extension have been made, however, and the Board expects to undertake and complete the necessary negotiations before spring.

It may not be generally known, but it is a fact, that the plans of the Metropolitan Park Commissioners for the speedway and river drive on the Longfellow marsh include a bridge over the river at Gerry's Landing. The purpose of your Board is to carry its work to the bridge. From Gerry's Landing up, the Metropolitan Park Commissioners have taken the water front, so that the bridge or Landing marks the westerly limit of our river work.

It seems to the Board to be very important that this section of the park work should be undertaken. The whole triangle

bounded by the river, Mt. Auburn Street and the road to Gerry's Landing is now in public hands. Such portion as is not occupied by the Hospital, the College Infirmary and the Home for Aged Couples, is owned by the State and will be improved by it for park purposes. All that we are called on to do is to treat the short stretch of unsightly, unhealthy and foul-smelling mud banks as we have done on the section below, and thus carry our work to its natural termination.

CAMBRIDGE FIELD.

This large playground and park has been extensively used throughout the year and continues to be a source of pleasure and benefit to a large community.

The increase in real estate values in the immediate neighborhood due to the building of this park is shown by the following figures:—

	Value of Land.	Value of Buildings.	Total Value.	Gain.
1893 . . .	\$403,100	\$533,000	\$936,100	
1896 . . .	442,000	650,000	1,092,000	\$155,900
1897 . . .	475,400	1,051,800	1,527,200	435,200
1898 . . .	487,600	1,174,000	1,661,600	134,400

Total gain in five years	\$725,500
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The interest and sinking fund charges in 1898 on the cost of Cambridge Field, to be raised from taxation, were \$12,000.00. The amount received by the City in 1898 from taxes on the above increase was \$11,898.20, showing that the Field is practically self supporting.

RINDGE FIELD.

The Board has had plans submitted for the permanent treatment of Rindge Field, and has laid out and built the streets bordering on the Field, which have been named Groveland, Pemberton and Yerxa Roads, respectively. It is the purpose to surface these roads with a good quality of gravel, which will serve the requirements of ordinary use for some time.

About 14,300 feet of land on the corner of Groveland Road and Rindge Avenue is occupied by the Wyman School. Steps



CAMBRIDGE-STREET MALL, CAMBRIDGE FIELD, 1898.

should be taken in the immediate future to secure another lot for this school building, as the land now occupied by it will be needed to complete the park.

EAST CAMBRIDGE EMBANKMENT.

It is quite probable that it will be necessary to complete the extension of Commercial Avenue to the canal during the year and at the same time do as much filling as is possible with such material as can be purchased at an advantage to the City.

COMMONS AND SQUARES.

The only important work done during the year was the rebuilding of Hastings Square. This work was earnestly requested by many citizens of Ward Four and the results obtained certainly endorse the wisdom of their request.

CAMBRIDGE COMMON.

The propriety of maintaining a ball ground on the common has been seriously questioned by the Commissioners. They recognize that almost from time immemorial it has been used for such purpose, and that a presumptive right so to use it might be claimed. They recognize, also, the fact that there are too few places in Cambridge where boys and men can indulge in such sports, and that there is no other place in that part of Cambridge, except Rindge Field, but which is not as conveniently located.

On the other hand, the Commissioners are aware that the ball ground is so situated that the noises caused by the players and spectators, the dangers to passers-by on the abutting streets and on the paths of the common, the language that accompanies the playing, the presence of crowds of spectators on occasions of particular interest, the unsightliness of that part of the common used for the purpose and arising from such use, constitute strong objections to its continuance in the minds of the neighbors and those having occasion to use the streets and paths, and demand that some change be made. The Commissioners have considered the advisability of prohibiting all play, and restoring that part of the common to a normal condition, as well as the advisability of relocating the ball ground so as to diminish the objections

named. The former plan is effective, the latter is partially remedial. The former involves little expense, except seeding, the latter involves a large outlay for relocation of several existing paths, removal of many large trees, and the necessary care, maintenance and policing.

The Board invites suggestions from all citizens interested.

SHADE TREES.

The usual amount of work has been done on the shade trees in the way of removals and renewals, as well as in protecting them from horses by the use of wire guards. The latter would be of greater value if the small boys' attention could be distracted from them. Destruction of the guards seems to offer every inducement to the boys, of which they are not slow to take advantage.

In the matter of the trimming of our trees, we are sadly behind other cities. So long as the appropriations for maintenance are less than our needs, it is evident that something has to be left undone, consequently that which is a luxury has to yield to the necessities; e. g., our parks need the lawn mowers and policemen more than the trees demand trimming. The result is not satisfactory, but unavoidable.

SCHOOL HOUSE GROUNDS.

Attention is again brought to the deplorable condition of the schoolhouse grounds. It is true that the Park Department has made a beginning in the work of improving and adorning them, but the appropriation for maintenance of shade trees and public grounds is too small to admit of the use of but a small amount of money each year for this purpose.

To put all the grounds in an acceptable condition will require the expenditure of about \$10,000. The Board therefore suggests that an annual appropriation of at least \$1,000 be made to be expended by this Department in this work. The Board suggests, also, that when the grounds are put in proper order the janitor of each schoolhouse be required, as one of his duties, to maintain them in good order.

EXTENSION OF THE ESPLANADE.

The Board has practically finished such work as has been heretofore begun on the various sections of the river front, and brought the same to a substantial completion. During the coming year, in addition to the small balance remaining unexpended of this year's appropriation, the sum of \$100,000 will be available for construction purposes, being the last instalment of the \$500,000 authorized by the Act of 1894. With a large part of our river frontage as yet uncompleted, but with sufficient to enable anyone to determine the character of the development, its effect upon neighboring property, and our inhabitants and visitors, the question arises as to what work should be undertaken during the coming year.

The first consideration to present itself to the Board is whether it should make its recommendations upon the assumption that substantially all construction work is to cease indefinitely upon the exhaustion of the legislative appropriation at the end of the coming year, or whether it should assume that the City will ask the Legislature for authority to issue additional loans for the purpose of continuing and finishing the work. It is for the City, and not for the Board, to decide this question. The Board can only state its views and recommendations for the City to act upon. A brief review of the situation, therefore, may not be out of place.

In 1893 the Legislature authorized the City to issue bonds not exceeding \$500,000 for the purpose, not expressly named in the Act but understood, of taking and developing the river front, and other open spaces. In 1894 an additional loan of \$500,000 was authorized for the same purpose. About \$900,000 has been expended, and a little over \$100,000 is still available. In 1897 a loan of \$100,000 was authorized for the purpose of constructing the sea wall from West Boston Bridge to the Embankment Company's wall, and for filling the adjacent park reservation. By the expenditure of this amount, \$1,000,000, Cambridge Field has been completed, the small squares like Dana, Hastings, Broadway and Winthrop, have been remodeled, Rindge Field has been acquired and some work done, school-house and public grounds have been improved, shade trees

planted, and the whole stretch of river front from West Boston Bridge to Cambridge Hospital, with the exception of the Riverside Press and Electric Light property between River Street and Western Avenue, which the Commissioners have decided to recommend taking next year, has been acquired, together with the Front, so called, on the East Cambridge side of West Boston Bridge. On this frontage a sea wall has been built from near Craigie Bridge to within 1,100 feet of West Boston Bridge, and from West Boston Bridge to a point about 2,230 feet west of Harvard Bridge; a stretch of 1,000 feet on either side of the bridge has been laid out, trees planted and planting spaces sown, a dyke and play ground have been nearly completed at the foot of Magazine Street, and a completed park and riverway constructed and open from Richardson & Bacon's coal wharf east of Boylston Street, to Cambridge Hospital.

There remains uncompleted Section A, so-called, from West Boston Bridge to land of the Charles River Embankment Company, about 2,010 feet of Section B, Section C, from Brookline Street to the end of the Charles River Embankment Company's sea wall west of Harvard Bridge, Section D, from River Street to Brookline Street, Section E, from Western Avenue to River Street, and Section F, from Richardson & Bacon's east to Western Avenue. It will be seen, therefore, that there is a large amount of uncompleted work to make such a continuous drive as has been planned, such as is demanded by all classes of citizens, and such as will be a credit to the City, and of priceless value from an aesthetic, moral and pecuniary standpoint.

It does not seem to the Board that the City can or should pause in the development of the river front at this stage. It is well known that such work as has been done has added largely to the pleasure, recreation and enjoyment of the people of this and other towns, has attracted visitors and would-be residents, has added largely to taxes by increased valuations, in other words, has paid, or is paying for itself. The total cost per year of park work per capita to date is 76 cents; on the tax rate the cost is represented by only 69 cents. It cannot therefore, be claimed that the expenditure bears heavily upon our people. Further, the expenditure will lessen each year by

increase in valuations, so that the cost will never be greater hereafter, and will grow gradually less.

With these considerations in mind, the Board feels that it is its duty to recommend that the City obtain authority to borrow sufficient money by issue of bonds to complete the river parkway, and that it should plan its work for the coming year upon the theory that its recommendations will be followed. Should the City decide to stop construction work, the Board feels that it would not be advisable to do any construction work on the new sections during the coming year, as the amount available would not suffice to complete any one section, and that it would be better to use its available money in bringing other sections and places to a more complete state.

The second consideration presented to the Board, in case it is determined to go on with the work, is as to the locality to be treated. In determining this question the probabilities concerning the matter of the proposed dam confront us. The site of the dam is from Ashby Street, or St. Mary's Street prolonged, in Boston, to a point on the Cambridge shore about at Chestnut Street. Below that point a sea wall will be necessary in any event, running from the dam to the end of the present wall which is about 2,230 feet west of Harvard Bridge, a stretch of about 1,840 feet. Above the dam, while a short stretch of sea wall will be necessary in any event, the method of treatment of the rest of the river shore depends upon the question whether the dam is or is not to be built. If it is to be built, but little sea wall will be necessary; if it is not to be built, more will be necessary, and where not used a different treatment of the river bank will be required than if the dam should be built. Whether or not the Federal Government will authorize the construction of the dam is not known. Under the Act of the Legislature of 1898, Chapter 531, the Metropolitan Park Commissioners were directed to build the dam, provided the consent of the Federal Government could be procured. As yet the Metropolitan Park Commissioners have taken no steps to obtain such consent.

But this uncertainty about the dam limits the Board in its work in the immediate future, lest otherwise its work might have to be undone or go for naught. The river work above Boylston

Street, it is true, was undertaken under similar conditions, but it was felt that a start must be made on the river, to demonstrate to our citizens the character and nature of river park development, and as an inducement to work by the Metropolitan Park Commissioners on the Boston side. It is believed that the results have justified our course and that the wisdom of it is apparent. The beach work on that section is of a kind that will fit either condition of the river, but it would not be wise in the altered conditions down the river to repeat the experiment.

Our choice of location for future work, therefore, seems to be limited to those portions of the river where a sea wall will have to be built in any event, and the Board therefore believes and recommends that its future work should be in extension of the present Esplanade on both sides of Harvard Bridge. By this course, no work will need to be undone upon construction of the dam.

The foregoing considerations, however, do not entirely influence the Board. There are others which have considerable weight. At present there is a double driveway for a distance of 1,000 feet west of Harvard Bridge, with paths, planting spaces and shade trees, a reservation 200 feet wide, which in the immediate future will, with its frontage on the river, form a very interesting and attractive spot. But this driveway leads nowhere. After one has driven up the 1,000 feet, there is nothing to do but to turn and drive back by the other parallel driveway; consequently there is nothing apart from the particular attractiveness of the short drive to draw people. The Commissioners believe that the Esplanade should be extended, if not as far as the dam, at least to a point sufficiently near Chestnut Street to enable a driveway to be constructed to connect with Chestnut Street, so that a pleasant and attractive drive can be had from this part of Ward Four, by means of the Esplanade, to and across Harvard Bridge, and by the Fens and North Beacon Street to Cottage Farm, and across the river by Brookline Street to the point of beginning. In addition to such connection, it would give to the residents of that part of Ward Four a far more attractive way of entering Boston than they now possess, and would give all Cambridge people and visitors an opportunity to reach Harvard

Square without the necessity of driving over the busy and crowded Massachusetts Avenue.

The natural continuance of this drive would be by extension of the drive from the dam to the recently constructed river drive at Brookline Street, and thence to the play ground at Magazine Street.

It is evident without further argument that valuations of that part of Ward Four would increase, and an impetus be given to development of the lands lying between the Esplanade and the railroad. Such land will be rendered accessible, being now totally inaccessible, building will follow, and a quick increase in taxable values will result. At present there is in that section a vast area of unfilled, or partially filled land, of no value to either the owners or the City. The driveway will bring this land into notice, and tend towards its early use and occupation.

For the foregoing reasons the Board proposes to extend its work to this section. It asks the aid of the abutting owners in the proper treatment and development thereof.

For like reasons the Board favors the extension of the Esplanade on the easterly side of Harvard Bridge along the sea wall and over the flats which have been filled during the past year, to meet the new West Boston Bridge. This will afford a driveway, when the Boston Park Commission has completed its work on the Boston side of the river, which will include both sides of the river from West Boston Bridge to Brookline Street Bridge or beyond.

The one advantage to be derived from these extensions is that a completed section results. The work does not end abruptly, but is continuous to a natural termination.

The extension of the Esplanade on both sides of Harvard Bridge is therefore recommended as the work for the coming year.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE PROPER TREATMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL LAND ADJACENT TO PARK AREAS.

One of the many problems presented to the Commissioners, and which has occasioned most serious consideration, has been

to determine how best to accelerate the value of residential property adjacent to park areas.

The inevitable result of park work wherever carried on, has been to increase not alone the assessed, but the market values of adjacent properties. This result has been clearly set forth in our previous reports, and the facts in proof thereof do not need to be repeated here. The same result is shown, whether the adjacent property is suitable for business or for residential purposes. With the former we are not at present concerned. It is the latter condition which demands our attention.

It has been brought to the Commissioners' notice that in some sections of our park work the park areas are separated from the best class of residences by settlements of the cheapest character, which produce but little, comparatively speaking, in the way of taxation and values, and occupy an area which, if vacant would be eagerly sought by those who would erect expensive dwellings and bring to the City a larger increase in taxes. Where such settlements are few or are scattered over a large area, it can safely be left to time to bring about the desired change. But where the settlements are large and compact, and in the hands of many owners, it is doubtful if any change could be effected in a long time, if left to time alone.

In such cases it has seemed to the Board that the City could do nothing which would contribute more to its own advantage than to enter upon such property, obtaining from the legislature general authority so to do, if it has not such already, devote such part thereof to park purposes as seems advisable, and dispose of the remaining under proper restrictions and conditions so as to produce the best results. This plan has been tried elsewhere with success, and could be safely tried here.

SOME FIGURES OF INTEREST TO TAX PAYERS.

From the beginning of park construction (1893) to Dec. 1, 1898, the City has spent for land and construction purposes the sum of \$972,670.82, or nearly one million dollars. None of this was raised by tax levy, but was obtained from the proceeds of sale of four per cent forty-year bonds. The interest and sinking fund charges upon the bonds for the current year amount to



A SECTION OF SHORE, UNIMPROVED.

\$48,945. Adding to this the cost of maintenance for the year, \$12,999.33, which includes also care of trees and public grounds, makes a total expenditure for the year of \$61,944.33 to be raised from taxation. In other words, it has cost the City during the past year for parks and park work, shade trees and public grounds, the sum of \$61,944.33. Based upon the 1895 census (81,643), the cost per capita is 76 cents. Based upon our 1898 tax rate of \$16.40 per \$1,000, 69 cents represents the cost of the park work. Applying these figures in a practical way, a man who pays taxes on \$100,000, or \$1,640, finds that \$69 thereof represents the cost to him of the park system; a man who pays taxes on \$10,000, or \$164, pays \$6.90 for his share of the expense.

It is true that our tax rate might have been \$15.71 this year, had it not been for the cost of our parks. But instead of Cambridge Field and Shelter we should have had an unsightly and barren waste; we should still be enjoying the muddy shores of the Charles River above Boylston Street, and the other conditions which are fresh in all minds; we should still have a large part of our water front on the Back Bay under water instead of an immense area filled to grade, and suitable for residential or industrial purposes.

The City of Boston, with a population seven times that of Cambridge, has a total area of 2,271 acres devoted to park purposes, as against an area in Cambridge of 162 acres, or nearly fourteen times as much. In proportion to population Boston has twice as much park area as Cambridge.

A comparison of the cost of certain parks in the two cities, which are similar in conditions of locations and use, may be interesting. Cambridge Field has an area of 12.6 acres and cost 37 cents per square foot; Charlesbank in Boston has an area of 10 acres and cost \$1.56 per square foot, showing a decided advantage in favor of our City.

Charlestown Heights, having an area of 10 acres, 4 acres being upland and 6 acres flats, cost 34 cents per square foot, while that portion of our completed riverway from Boylston Street to Cambridge Hospital, an area of 14 acres, cost only 32 cents per square foot.

The property benefited by the construction of Cambridge Field has increased in value from \$936,100 in 1893 to \$1,661,600 in 1898, or \$725,500, more than three and one half times the cost of the Field.

The valuation of the property benefited by the Rindge Field work has increased from \$77,900 in 1893 to \$116,800 in 1898, or \$38,900.

The valuation of the property benefited by the East Cambridge Embankment has increased from \$655,100 in 1893 to \$766,100 in 1898, or \$111,000.

On the river parkway from Section C to Section G inclusive, there has been an increase from 1893 to 1898 of \$487,700.

In other words, the total increase in values since 1893, all of which is attributable solely to park construction, is \$1,363,100.

RELATED MATTERS.

It is not properly one of the functions of this Board to recommend the laying out of public streets, but there are two instances where such streets bear so close a relation to the park work that it seems not improper to bring them to the attention of the City Government. Eliot Street in Ward One should be extended to connect with Dyke Street and the river driveway, and can be done at this time at a small expense. This extension would make a short, direct and very necessary connection between the river drive and Brattle Square, and at the same time would open up quite a section of territory that could advantageously be used for building purposes.

Granite Street in Ward Four should be extended from Magazine Street to Brookline Street. This extension will be absolutely necessary for a proper, economical and attractive laying out of park lands in that section. It will also serve as an important connection between the two streets for the driving public who may pass over the Brookline Bridge.

North Harvard Street, Brighton, has been widened to conform to Boylston Street, Cambridge, in accordance with the agreement made by the Street Commissioners of Boston some time ago. The street has been regraded and entirely and thoroughly rebuilt and another attractive approach to Cambridge thus added.



A SECTION OF SHORE, IMPROVED.

Soldiers Field and the new Metropolitan Park Speedway on the Longfellow meadows will bring this section into such extensive use that it will soon be necessary to widen and rebuild the Boylston Street Bridge.

CONNECTION WITH MIDDLESEX FELS AND THE BOSTON PARK SYSTEM.

It seems the proper time to call the attention of the citizens of Cambridge to the fact that nothing has been done by the Metropolitan Park Commission in aid of any park work in this City, with the exception of a small taking between Gerry's Landing and Mount Auburn Street and a donation to the fund to secure a portion of the Lowell estate as a memorial.

In 1894 Cambridge requested the Metropolitan Park Commissioners to construct a park drive between Fresh Pond and the Middlesex Fells, which should be the connection via the Charles River Drive between the Fens and the Fells. This request was endorsed and petitioned for by the Mayor, the Water Commissioners and Park Commissioners of Boston, the Mayors of Somerville, Waltham, Newton, Everett and Cambridge, the Park Commissioners of Cambridge, Brookline, Belmont, Woburn and Winchester, the Board of Trade of Watertown and the Citizens' Committee of Arlington.

This request, so far as is known, was not heeded. Gifts of money and lands from the Town of Winchester and private owners secured the completion of the parkway from Winchester to West Medford. There it stopped and nothing apparently has been done to extend it to the Charles River. Cambridge does not ask any assistance from the Metropolitan Park Commission for any local improvements, but it does ask that this connection be provided. It asks it in its own interest and also in the interest of the towns lying south of the Charles.

The Charles River valley is in the heart of the Metropolitan District and is capable of being converted into a parkway, waterway and driveway sufficient for the recreative and aesthetic requirements of its future population. This river park will be the easiest of access to the greatest number and should be connected

with the great reservations on the north as well as those on the south.

It is a fact that Cambridge is practically isolated from the want of proper connections with the park systems of other cities and towns in the district. It is possible, of course, to use existing streets and highways for the purpose, but such use has many objections. Recognizing this fact, the Legislature, by Act of 1894, Chapter 288, expressly imposed upon the Metropolitan Board the duty of making proper connections, and many such have been or are being made on the northern side of Boston. Up to the present time, however, Cambridge has received no attention, although in the judgment of your Commissioners its needs are evident. Cambridge will be called on to pay a larger proportion of the assessments for the Metropolitan work than any other city or town except Boston. Its citizens have spent more for local park construction, all of which will fit into the general Metropolitan work, than any other city or town in the district in proportion to population.

The Commissioners feel that Cambridge should urge the construction of a boulevard to connect our beautiful Fresh Pond Drive with Middlesex Fells, especially since the Metropolitan Board has projected a connection between West Medford and Arlington, which leaves only the short distance between Arlington and Fresh Pond to be cared for.

The Commissioners also believe that the bridge over the Charles connecting the speedway and river drive on the Longfellow marshes with Gerry's Landing, which has been contemplated by the Metropolitan Board, and the construction of the driveway from Gerry's Landing to Mount Auburn Street, should receive the early attention of the Metropolitan Board.

The erection of the Hospital buildings, the Home for Aged Couples, the projected construction of the College Infirmary on this driveway and the projected work of this Commission on the shores of the river at the Hospital seem to be sufficient to warrant this request.

When these connections are made Cambridge will no longer be isolated. It will then be possible for our citizens to reach the Boston park system on the south and the Middlesex Fells on the

north, our own system forming the connecting link between the two.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

During the year bills have been approved by the Board and certified to the Auditor to the total amount of \$168,243.89. This amount is divided as follows:—

Park lands and construction	\$155,244.56
Park maintenance	12,999.33
	<hr/>
	\$168,243.89

These two amounts were expended as follows:

PARK LOAN.

Amount appropriated April 6, 1898	\$142,827.74
Amount appropriated June 30, 1898	40,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$182,827.74

EXPENDED.

River Parkway, Section A.		
Construction account	\$67,968.48	
Land account	1,512.48	
	<hr/>	\$69,480.96
River Parkway, Section B.		
Construction account	\$32,645.90	32,645.90
River Parkway, Section C.		
Construction account	\$50.87	50.87
River Parkway, Section D.		
Construction account	\$13,467.21	
Land account	125.00	
	<hr/>	13,592.21
River Parkway, Section E.		
Construction account	\$18.75	18.75
River Parkway, Section F.		
Construction account	\$5,773.51	
Land account	1,020.29	
	<hr/>	6,793.80
River Parkway, Section G.		
Construction account	\$17,253.53	
Land account	30.00	
	<hr/>	17,283.53
Rindge Field.		
Construction account	\$4,606.65	4,606.65

East Cambridge Embankment.

Construction account	\$1,321.79	\$1,321.79
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Hastings Square.

Construction account	\$943.61	943.61
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Cambridge Field.

Construction account	\$769.94	769.94
------------------------------	----------	--------

Winthrop Square.

Construction account	\$113.39	113.39
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Nursery.

Construction account	\$105.00	105.00
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General Accounts.

Construction account	\$5,648.02	5,648.02
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Office Expenses.

Construction account	\$1,870.14	1,870.14
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Total amount expended	\$155,244.56	
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Balance of appropriation unexpended . .	\$27,583.18	
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From the above it will be seen that the amount expended during the year under Park Loans was divided as follows:—

Construction account	\$152,556.79
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Land account	2,687.77
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Total	\$155,244.56
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PARK MAINTENANCE.

Amount appropriated April 6, 1898	\$13,000.00
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EXPENDED.

Shade trees	\$3,548.09
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Commons and squares	3,253.57
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Shelter	2,561.17
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Cambridge Field	2,228.22
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Nursery	755.45
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Public grounds	444.80
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General account	118.83
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Rindge Field	89.20
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Total amount expended	12,999.33
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Balance of appropriation unexpended . .	\$.67
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A detailed classification of the expenditures will be found in the report of the General Superintendent.

Since the beginning of the work in 1893, there has been expended to date, of money raised under Park and Esplanade Loans, the sum of \$972,670.82.

The division is as follows:—

River Parkway:—

Section A.

Construction account	\$121,990.29	
Land account	1,576.83	
	<hr/>	\$123,567.12

Section B.

Construction account	\$32,978.20	32,978.20
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Section C.

Construction account	\$50.87	
Land account	1,413.55	
	<hr/>	1,464.42

Section D.

Construction account	\$17,233.30	
Land account	95,047.25	
	<hr/>	112,280.55

Section E.

Construction account	\$18.75	
Land account	25.00	
	<hr/>	43.75

Section F.

Construction account	\$21,283.59	
Land account	66,432.36	
	<hr/>	87,715.95

Section G.

Construction account	\$112,827.03	
Land account	80,681.08	
	<hr/>	193,508.11

Cambridge Field.

Construction account	\$124,289.40	
Land account	78,884.85	
	<hr/>	203,174.25

East Cambridge Embankment.

Construction account	\$86,247.30	
Land account	45,231.40	
	<hr/>	131,478.70

Rindge Field.

Construction account	\$8,609.80	
Land account	31,461.85	
	<hr/>	40,071.65

Broadway Park.

Construction account	\$11,308.65	\$11,308.65
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Nursery.

Construction account	\$2,549.37	2,549.37
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Winthrop Square.

Construction account	\$1,866.26	1,866.26
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Hastings Square.

Construction account	\$943.61	943.61
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Office Expenses.

Construction account	\$8,096.26	8,096.26
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General Account.

Construction account	\$26,118.36	26,118.36
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	\$977,165.21
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Less Park revenue for 1894 and 1896 merged into
land and construction accounts

	4,494.39
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	\$972,670.82
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Of the whole amount of park loans expended to December 1, 1898, 41 per cent has been for land and 59 per cent for construction, as follows:—

Land account (less "revenues")	\$396,259.78
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Construction account	576,411.04
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	\$972,670.82
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During the year another change in the Board has been necessitated by the retirement on account of ill health of Rev. John O'Brien who had served as a Commissioner since its first organization. Father O'Brien is one of the pioneers in Cambridge park development, and his interest and zeal in the work have been constant. The Board received his resignation with great regret.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. HOWLAND COX,
WILLIAM M. RICHARDSON,
EDMUND REARDON,

Park Commissioners.

REPORT

OF THE

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS.

CAMBRIDGE, December 1, 1898.

To the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Cambridge:

Gentlemen:—I have the honor to present my second annual report as General Superintendent of Parks, covering the financial year 1898.

RIVER PARKWAY.

For purposes of construction, the river parkway has been divided into sections, as follows:—

Section A.—From West Boston Bridge to land of Charles River Embankment Company.

Section B.—Fronting land of Charles River Embankment Company.

Section C.—From land of Charles River Embankment Company to Brookline Street.

Section D.—From Brookline Street to River Street.

Section E.—From River Street to Western Avenue.

Section F.—From Western Avenue to Boylston Street.

Section G.—From Boylston Street to Cambridge Hospital grounds.

Section H.—Along Cambridge Hospital grounds to Metropolitan Park Reservation.

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION A.

The work of building a sea wall and filling the flats at Section

A has been carried on under the direction of the City Engineer. The sea wall has been completed at a total cost of \$90,590.77, including cost of stone ballast. The filling of the flats will be completed about the first of February, 1899, and will have cost about \$50,500.

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION B.

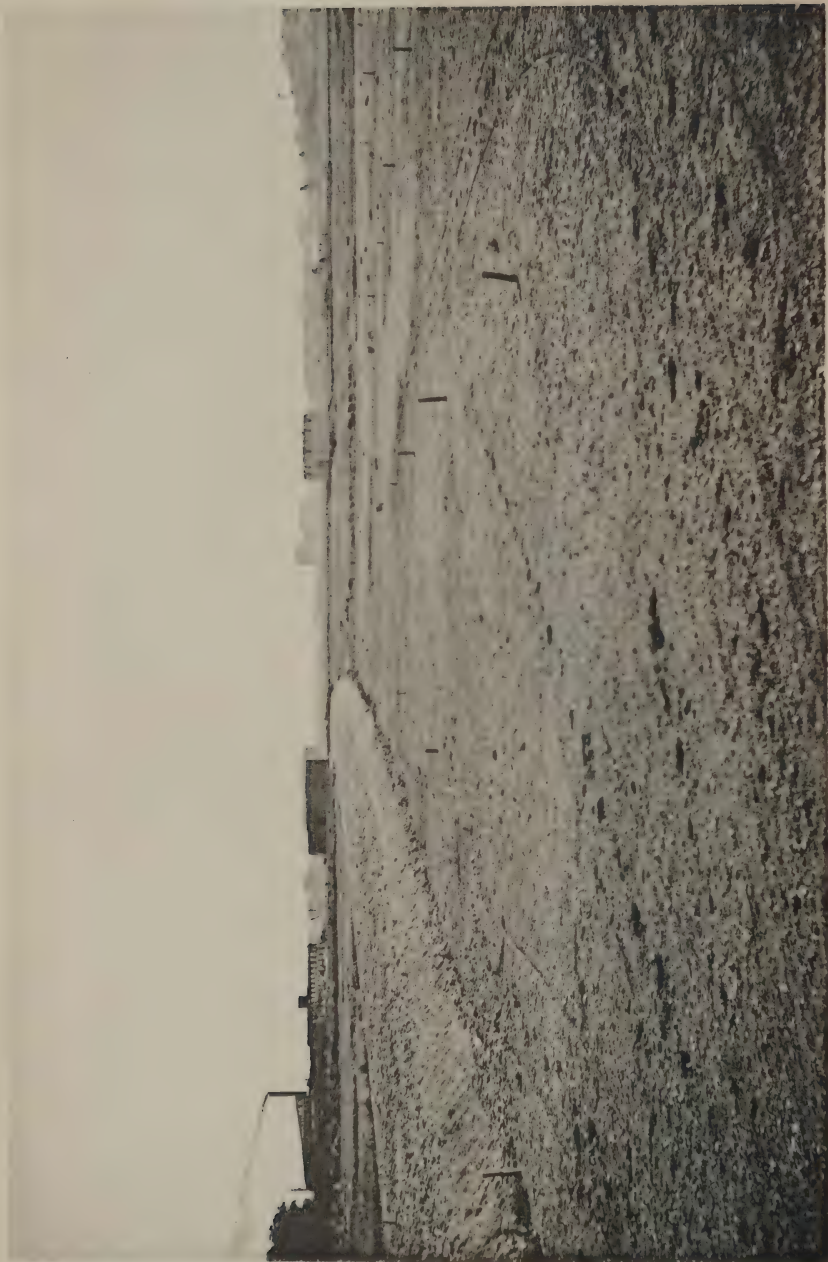
The work at this section was the first commenced and is the most important of the year. Early in March work was begun on the excavations for the tree spaces. These spaces were excavated four feet deep over an area of about 100 square feet. Considerable water was met with which had to be removed by means of hand pumps. The grass and planting spaces were dug to a depth of eighteen inches. On the east side of Massachusetts Avenue the material excavated was very sandy and was sold for building purposes, about 3,000 cubic yards being removed in this way. The material on the west side of the avenue was of a coarser quality and was used in building the streets and walks.

Early in April the trees were set out, one row on either side of each roadway. Two hundred and sixteen *Acer Platanoides* (Norway maples) were planted. These are carefully selected trees and are the finest that could be obtained in this locality.

The work that consumed the most labor was the spreading of the loam over the grass and planting spaces. The total amount of loam used at this section was 18,810 cubic yards.

A complete watering system has been established for Section B. A main line of six-inch pipe was run from Massachusetts Avenue on either side in the centre of the inner sidewalk. From these main lines 12 one-inch lines were run, feeding 38 hydrants. The watering system, including labor, cost \$518.32.

Catch basins have been built on either side of each roadway 200 feet apart. The basins on the outer row near the river were built in a very substantial manner. Holes were dug to a depth of about ten feet, six to eight feet in diameter. At the bottom of these holes platforms or "floats" were built of stout planks on which the basins were constructed of brick and cement. These catch basins receive the water from the three other rows of basins and empty into the river. The other catch basins are very simple



THE HELIOTYPE PRINTING CO. BOSTON

PLAYGROUND NEAR CAPTAIN'S ISLAND, UNDER CONSTRUCTION, 1898.

in construction, being built of ordinary sewer pipe bedded into brick so as to hold the catch basin cover. The drainage system cost \$825.54, exclusive of part of the labor.

Massachusetts Avenue at Section B has been widened twenty feet and resurfaced with a macadam finish. The old curbing has been removed and new pean-hammered stone set, making the openings into the park roadways.

The loam spaces have been treated with fertilizer and seeded.

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION D.

In July, 1898, a contract was made with the Bay State Dredging Company to furnish and spread to grade, for 61 cents per cubic yard, about 12,000 cubic yards of gravel to be dredged from the river. This gravel was used in building a roadway 40 feet wide across the marsh from Brookline Street to Magazine Street and in widening Magazine Street to Granite Street. Owing to the settlement of the marsh under this filling, it was found necessary to contract for an additional 5,000 cubic yards of gravel which was obtained at the same price. This river gravel is excellent material for road building and costs about one half as much as bank gravel.

A playfield of 86,400 square feet, or nearly two acres, has been graded, using the gravel and sand which was in piles at the foot of Magazine Street. The grade of this field was so low that the highest tides flowed over it, so it was decided to build a dyke along the shore line from Magazine Street to the new park road near Brookline Street, a distance of about 1,340 feet. In November, 1898, a contract was made with Nawn & Brock to build this dyke for \$1.47 per lineal foot. The dyke is being built of marsh mud thoroughly rammed and compacted, covered with marsh sods. On top of the dyke there is to be a gravel walk four feet wide. Inside of the dyke and parallel to it a ditch has been dug to act as the main drain. At right angles to this ditch trenches have been dug, so as to thoroughly drain the entire marsh enclosed within the dyke. The main drain empties into the Pearl Street sewer, gates being employed to prevent the tides from backing up into the drains.

It was found necessary to repair the Pearl Street sewer and

where it passes under the new park road piles were driven to carry the extra weight. This cost was divided equally between the Sewer Department and this Department.

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION F.

The contract made in 1897 with the Bay State Dredging Company for furnishing and spreading 20,000 cubic yards of river gravel was completed early in the spring, forming the walks, roadway and beach from Boylston Street to Richardson & Bacon's coal wharf. The loam spaces or planting strips, one on either side of the roadway, were then dug. Owing to the porosity of the filling, and acting upon the advice of the landscape architects, a layer of clay eight to ten inches in thickness was spread on the bottom of these trenches to retain the moisture. This clay was dredged from the river and cost 35 cents per cubic yard delivered. A coating of lime was spread on the clay in order to neutralize any acid. Loam to a depth of one foot was used in these trenches, except at the tree spaces, where two feet was used. Trees of the *Platanus Orientalis* species (plane trees) were planted on either side of the roadway in the planting strips and the strips sodded.

The old edgestone crossing the parkway on the east side of Boylston Street has been removed and a connection made between Boylston Street and the parkway.

A vast improvement has been made between the Weld Boat House and Boylston Street. The old wooden fence has been removed, the space back of the bulkhead filled in and the whole regraded to conform to the grade of Boylston Street. The ground around the boat house has been reconstructed with walks and planting spaces, and drainage and watering systems established.

An iron fence has been erected along the top of the old bulkhead and from the bulkhead to the bridge on Boylston Street. Welsbach lights have been put in.

The park roadway and walks have been surfaced with a fine quality of bank gravel, which should be rolled with a ten or twelve ton roller next spring.



THE HELIOTYPE PRINTING CO. BOSTON

RIVER PARK, ADJOINING CAMBRIDGE HOSPITAL.

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION G.

The work of most importance at Section G, this year, was the raising to grade of the roadway, walk and planting strips between Murray Street and the old gas house wharf. These had settled from one to twelve inches. This work necessitated also the raising of the upper portion of the beach. In the early spring the planting of the plane trees on either side of the roadway was continued from Murray Street to the gas wharf, and later the planting strips were sodded with sods received from Rindge Field. In other portions of Section G, where settlement had occurred, the surface was raised only enough to allow of drainage. In several instances the catch basins were lowered to save considerable regrading.

About 2,145 cubic yards of mud, which had been displaced by settlement of the filling, have been dredged from the foot of the beach.

Edgestone has been set on the east side of the roadway from Mount Auburn Street to the foot of Bath Street, connection being made between Mount Auburn Street and the park roadway, where a concrete crossing was put in.

A brick sidewalk has been built along Mount Auburn Street from Bath Street to the Cambridge Hospital grounds, costing \$1,902.33.

The park roadway at the foot of Bath Street has been changed, carrying the road in from the river, thus making a less abrupt turn and better approach to Mount Auburn Street.

The roadway from Boylston Street to Mount Auburn Street has been thoroughly rolled with a twelve ton roller and a smooth, hard surface obtained.

A lighting system has been established at Section G, using the Welsbach naphtha generating lamps. Thirty-three of these lamps have been in use since July and have cost about \$2.70 per lamp per month.

Shrubbery has been planted at the foot of Bath Street and inside the iron fence on Mount Auburn Street.

This section has been carefully policed during the year, resulting in the arrest and conviction of fourteen persons who had violated City and Park Ordinances.

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION H.

Surveys and plans have been made of the proposed taking along the Cambridge Hospital grounds from Section G to the Metropolitan Park Reservation.

No construction work has been done on Sections C and E of the river parkway this year.

RINDGE FIELD.

The plans of the landscape architects for the reconstruction of Rindge Field contemplate work very similar to that already completed at Cambridge Field. That portion of the field adjacent to Rindge Avenue is to be utilized for lawns, planting spaces and walks, leading up to an open shelter and music court. An open air gymnasium is designated at either side of this court. The rest of the field is given up to a large playground for small games, and so constructed that it may be flooded for skating. The plans indicate the removal of the Wyman School, but do not include any territory south of Railroad Street.

The work this year consisted in building streets on the east, west and south sides of the field connecting with Rindge Avenue at either side of the field. In July, 1898, a contract was made with P. T. Leahy to furnish about 1,700 cubic yards of gravel at 65 cents per cubic yard. 1,089 double loads of material were received from the Street Department at 30 cents per load. The streets were first stripped of sods and loam, which were used in other park work as follows: 2,424 cubic yards of loam and 15,330 feet of sod at Section B, 45 cubic yards of loam and 22,509 feet of sod at Section G, 18 cubic yards of loam and 3,066 feet of sod at Section F, and 825 feet of sod at Hastings Square. Sub-filling was moved from one portion of the street to another so as to allow for from nine to twelve inches of gravel. The streets have not been rolled.

Two catch basins have been built on Railroad Street and connected with the Railroad Street sewer.

The next work done at Rindge Field should be the construction of a base ball field, in its final location. The present field is in very poor condition.

Watering and drainage systems should be established.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • PARK COMMISSION.

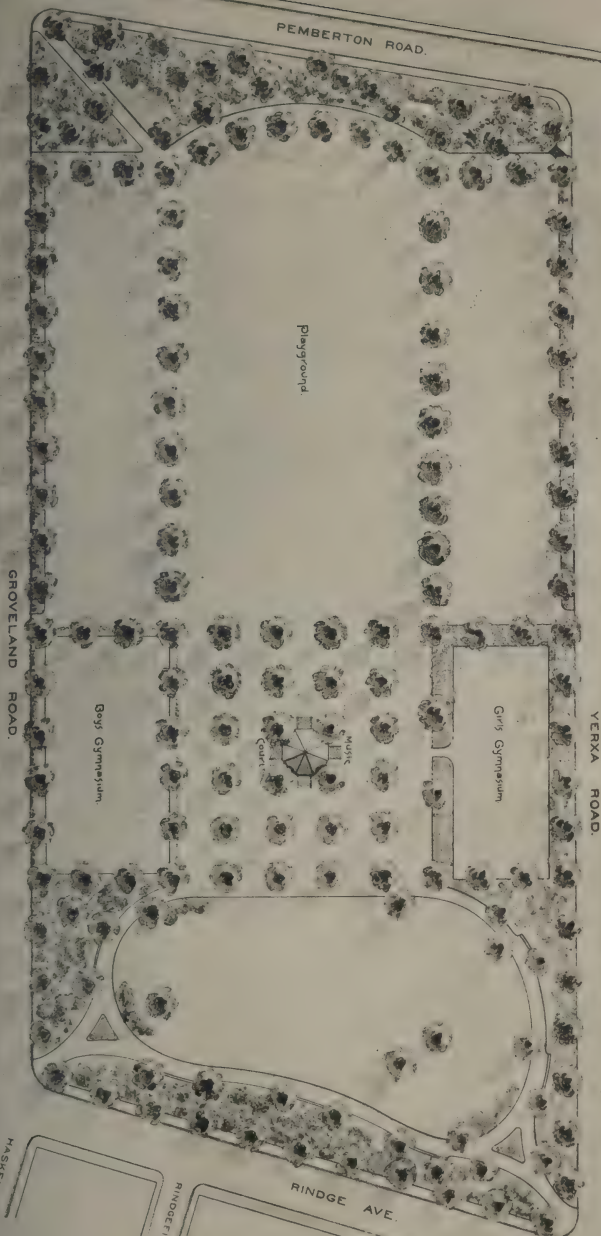
RINDGE FIELD.

1898.

SCALE

Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects.
Brookline, Mass.

Geo Howard Cox
William M Richardson } COMMISSIONERS.
Edmund Pearson
L. M. Haskell }
City Engineer.



EAST CAMBRIDGE EMBANKMENT.

The work at East Cambridge Embankment was carried on until the end of February. The work consisted chiefly in ballasting the sea wall on the inside with broken bricks and stone. No filling has been purchased this year, and only 318 double loads have been received free. That portion of Binney Street between First Street and Commercial Avenue has been excavated to grade and a substantial roadbed made of broken stone.

CAMBRIDGE FIELD.

Cambridge Field has very clearly demonstrated its great usefulness this first year since its completion. During the months of spring, summer and autumn the average daily attendance on pleasant days was between two and three thousand persons. These visitors enjoyed themselves in various ways; the younger ones in the sand courts and on the see-saws, the older ones on the large playfield engaged in hockey, base ball, foot ball, etc., while many others strolled about enjoying the cool breezes and delightful scenes.

Last winter the playfield was flooded and skating was enjoyed by vast crowds for a short while, but the January storm put an end to this sport.

On account of the porous condition of the playfield, it being entirely filled ground, the surface is in a very poor condition for base ball or foot ball. The rains wash the finer binding material into the ground, leaving many stones exposed. A fine binding gravel should be spread over the entire playfield to a depth of four or five inches and thoroughly rolled with a ten or twelve ton roller. This would give a surface which should stand the wear for a number of years. Surfacing the field in this manner would cost about \$7,000.00.

The grass and shrubbery are in fine condition, but have necessitated the constant care of four men from April to November.

The field has been under the direct care of a Superintendent. A matron and a janitor have been constantly employed at The Shelter, while the field has been policed during the afternoon and evening hours. Twenty-four arrests have been made, from

which twenty-four convictions were obtained in the municipal court.

SHADE TREES.

Most of the year's work on the street trees has been confined to completing orders received at the office for trimming, repairing guards and removing broken and dead limbs. During the year 39 petitions for the removal of trees have been received, 30 of which have been granted. Numerous trees partly dead and in an unsafe condition have been removed without petition. The trees removed from the streets were as follows:—

<i>Acer platanoides</i> (Norway maple) . . .	1
<i>Acer rubrum</i> (swamp maple) . . .	4
<i>Acer saccharinum</i> (rock maple) . . .	15
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> (horse chestnut) . .	7
<i>Ailanthus glandulosa</i> (tree of Heaven) . .	1
<i>Fraxinus Americana</i> (white ash) . . .	6
<i>Populus canadensis</i> (cottonwood) . . .	1
<i>Tilia Americana</i> (American linden) . . .	2
<i>Ulmus Americana</i> (American elm) . . .	28
<i>Ulmus campestris</i> (English elm) . . .	2
	—
	67

It is the intention to employ a "tree inspector" next year, whose duty it shall be to carefully inspect all the public trees in the City, making a report as to the condition of the trees and wire guards, what trimming is needed, where trees are too crowded, or where trees should be planted. In this way it is hoped that any work done on the trees may be systematic, tending to the best results for the whole City rather than for individual cases.

Very little street planting has been accomplished this year. About 220 holes were prepared for trees early in the fall, but the heavy snow in November caused a postponement of the work until next spring.

The trees planted on the streets were as follows:—

<i>Acer saccharinum</i> (rock maple) . . .	16
<i>Ulmus Americana</i> (American elm) . . .	9
	—
	25

In March, 1898, a communication was received from the State Board of Agriculture, calling the attention of the Commissioners to the existence of the Brown-tail Moth in Cambridge, and to the Acts of Legislature relative thereto. Circulars were immediately issued by the Commissioners to every property owner in Cambridge, which resulted in locating the moth in large numbers in North Cambridge and in Old Cambridge.

About thirty men, who had been employed by the Gipsy Moth Commission, were secured and set to work destroying the nests in the most badly infested districts. This work was continued for about five days, during which time 811 street trees were climbed on which 3,386 nests were destroyed, at a total cost of \$397.94.

COMMONS AND SQUARES.

Hastings Square has been reconstructed in accordance with plans prepared by the landscape architects, the work costing \$943.61, or three cents per square foot. The old walks were removed and new ones built in different locations, old entrances abandoned and new ones constructed in more useful positions. Numerous trees and shrubs were removed in order to give room to those remaining. The old turf was spaded, regraded and seeded. Drainage and watering systems have been established.

The iron fence surrounding Fort Washington Square necessitated repairing which cost \$8.25.

Late in the year work was commenced making three new board walks for Cambridge Common. This work will cost about \$250.00. Additional new walks should be made next year.

The commons and squares have required the constant care of ten men from April to November, attending to the grass, shrubbery, etc.

PUBLIC GROUNDS.

Owing to lack of funds, it was found impossible to go on this year with the work of remodeling the Public Library grounds, which was commenced in 1897. About one third of the work contemplated by the plans of the landscape architects was com-

pleted that year and the rest of the work should be finished next year before the shrubbery already planted is too far advanced.

The grounds around the new English High School, at the corner of Broadway and Trowbridge Street, have been greatly improved by the planting of shrubbery. A watering system has been put in.

Plans should be made this winter for the construction of the new Latin School grounds on Trowbridge Street. The building is so nearly completed that the construction of the grounds should be undertaken next spring.

The grounds at the Taylor School, on Charles Street, have been constructed this year, the work having been done by this Department and paid for by the Public Building Department. Gravel walks, grass and planting spaces were put in and a neat iron picket fence erected on Lowland Avenue, Charles and Vine Streets.

An examination has been made of all the school yards in the City and those which do not urgently need to be improved are greatly in the minority. A great many of the yards are enclosed with high board fences which are very unsightly. These should be removed and replaced, if necessary, by iron picket fences. Many of the yards could be made almost beautiful, in comparison with their present condition, at a moderate outlay. Take, for instance, the Agassiz School yard, at the corner of Oxford and Sacramento Streets! The building is in a fine condition while the yard is disgraceful, although hidden from the street by a high board fence. This corner could be made one of the most attractive spots in Cambridge at a cost of less than a thousand dollars.

On the next page will be found a list of the school yards, showing briefly their condition and the probable cost of needed improvement.

SCHOOL.	LOCATION.	YARD AREA IN SQ. FT.	CONDITION OF YARD.	NEEDED IMPROVEMENT.	PROBABLE COST.
Agassiz.....	Sacramento St..	15,337	Poor.....	Graded. Remove fence.....	.....\$850
Allston.....	Boardman St....	14,495	Fair.....	Planting. Lawn.....	.....350
Boardman ..	Windsor St....	5,528	Fair.....	Lawn. Remove fence.....	.....120
Corlett.....	Holworthy St....	8,806	Poor.....	Lawn. Fence.....	.....340
Cushing.....	Cushing St.....	12,897	Poor.....	Lawn. Walks. Planting.....	.....290
Dana.....	Centre St.....	12,347	Fair.....	Lawn. Walks. Planting.....	.....300
Dunster.....	Concord Ave....	8,150	Fair.....	Front changed.....	.....210
Elton.....	Amory St.....	11,760	Very poor...	Graded. Remove fence.....	.....940
Gannett.....	Jefferson St....	12,299	Good.....	Resodded.....	.....50
Gore.....	Gore St.....	5,354	Good.....	No change.....	
Harvard.....	Inman St.....	12,030	Good.....	No change.....	
High.....	Broadway.....	68,094	Excellent...	No change.....	
Holmes.....	Hilliard St....	8,894	Poor.....	No change, school not in use.	
Laessle.....	Charles St.....	6,992	Poor.....	Graded. Planting. Lawn.....	.....370
Latin.....	Fayette St....	32,188	Poor.....	Graded. Lawn. Remove fence.....	.....910
Latin (new).	Trowbridge St..		Not finished..		
Lee Street ..	Lee St.....	5,380	Fair.....	No change, school in too poor condition.....	
Lowell.....	Lowell St.....	9,108	Very poor...	Graded. Lawn.....	.....340
Morse.....	Lowell St.....	15,420	Excellent...		
Otis.....	Otis St.....	3,190	Poor.....	Planting. Lawn. Fence.....	.....310
Parker.....	Broadway.....	8,024	Very poor...	Graded. Planting.....	.....400
Peabody.....	Linnæan St....	17,663	Fair.....	Resodded. Planting.....	.....70
Putnam.....	Fourth St.....	10,575	Good.....	Planting.....	.....30
Quincy.....	Mason St.....	6,383	Poor.....	Lawn. Planting.....	.....290
Reed.....	Reed St.....	9,915	Very poor...	No change, school in too poor condition..	
Riverside...	Putnam Ave....	7,893	Very poor...	Lawn. Fence.....	.....350
Russell.....	Larch St.....	25,728	Poor.....	Lawn. Walks. Planting.....	.....300
Sargent.....	Broadway.....	7,899	Fair.....	Lawn. Walks. Planting.....	.....320
Shepard.....	Mass. Ave.....	9,640	Fair.....	Lawn. Walks. Planting.....	.....300
Sleeper.....	Dudley St....	15,412	Excellent...	No change.....	
Stearns.....	Harvard St....	7,530	Poor.....	No change, school in too poor condition...	
Tarbell.....	Grigg St.....	16,708	Very poor...	Graded. Iron fence.....	.....990
Taylor.....	Charles St.....	17,698	Excellent...	No change.....	.....100
Thorndike ..	Thorndike St..	2,637	Fair.....	Planting.....	.....340
Washington	Brattle St....	10,121	Fair.....	No change.....	
Webster.....	Upton St.....	21,339	Good.....	Lawn. Iron fence.....	.....900
Willard.....	Niagara St....	15,543	Fair.....	No change, school to be abandoned.....	
Wyman.....	Rindge Ave....	12,001	Fair.....	Lawn. Iron fence.....	.....360
Wellington..	Columbia St....	26,011	Fair.....		
Ellis.....	Norris St.....		Not finished..		
					.....\$10,070

THE YEAR'S EXPENDITURES.

The expenses of the Department for the year are shown in the following summary of the departmental accounts:—

PARK LOANS.

Amount appropriated April 6, 1898	\$142,827.74
Amount appropriated June 30, 1898	40,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$182,827.74

EXPENDED.

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION A.

Filling flats	\$29,724.61
Sea wall	27,116.76
Ballast	10,590.76
Lands	1,300.00
Engineering	433.30
Counsel fees	212.48
Pay roll	71.50
Levelling ballast	20.30
Water rent	6.38
Advertising	2.00
Recording license	1.87
Repairing oars	1.00

69,480.96

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION B.

Loam	\$13,235.40
Pay roll	11,608.46
Teaming	3,925.07
Drainage system	825.54
Engineering	744.34
Broken stone	724.16
Watering system	518.32
Trees	468.75
Edgestone	290.57
Grass seed	132.20
Tools and hardware	53.62
Stakes for engineers	41.48
Sod	28.20

Am'ts carried forward, \$32,596.11 \$69,480.96 \$182,827.74

<i>Am'ts brought forward,</i>	\$32,596.11	\$69,480.96	\$182,827.74
Carpentering	15.93		
Blacksmithing	11.86		
Demurrage	10.00		
Tree poles	5.00		
Stationery and printing	4.00		
Coal	3.00		

 32,645.90

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION C.

Engineering	\$50.87	50.87
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RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION D.

Gravel	\$10,257.15
Pay roll	2,016.92
Engineering	781.14
Drainage system . .	237.12
Teaming	129.83
Counsel fees	125.00
Stakes for engineers .	17.50
Lumber	12.18
Consulting engineer .	10.00
Advertising	3.61
Tools and hardware .	1.76

 13,592.21

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION E.

Engineering	\$16.75
Pay roll	2.00

 18.75

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION F.

Pay roll	\$1,530.96
Moving and repairing	
Weld Boat House .	1,283.00
Loam	1,046.72
Lands	1,020.29
Gravel	893.59
Engineering	257.13
Iron fences	154.15

Am'ts carried forward, \$6,185.84 \$115,788.69 \$182,827.74

<i>Am'ts brought forward,</i>	\$6,185.84	\$115,788.69	\$182,827.74
Plans of Weld Boat House	125.00		
Repairing bulkhead .	113.49		
Clay	80.85		
Edgestone	80.54		
Lime	75.60		
Teaming	50.25		
Watering system . .	31.83		
Lighting	25.87		
Drainage system . .	11.00		
Water rent	6.00		
Cutting edgestone . .	3.00		
Printing and advertising	2.16		
Recording license . .	1.77		
Oil . . . . .	.45		
Hardware . . . . .	.15		

6,793.80

RIVER PARKWAY. SECTION G.

Pay roll	\$7,345.63		
Brick sidewalk	1,902.33		
Gravel	1,853.10		
Engineering	1,294.98		
Loam	1,065.18		
Iron fence	931.65		
Dredging mud	908.85		
Lighting	418.04		
Teaming	312.17		
Edgestone	293.54		
Paving stone	227.61		
Filling	153.89		
Steam roller	120.00		
Trees	92.85		
Concrete crossing . . .	54.60		
Drainage system . . .	53.21		
Sod	36.72		
Manure	33.73		
Appraising real estate .	30.00		
Signs and posts	27.10		
Carpentering	23.15		
Rubbish barrels	21.75		

Am'ts carried forward, \$17,200.08 \$122,582.49 \$182,827.74

Am'ts brought forward, \$17,200.08 \$122,582.49 \$182,827.74

Tree poles	17.00
Advertising	11.81
Stationery and printing	10.57
Tools and hardware . .	8.69
Watering system . . .	8.69
Cutting edgestone . . .	8.00
Photographic material .	6.00
Serving notices	4.74
Sharpening picks	3.45
Sand	1.80
Oil	1.40
Lumber	1.30

17,283.53

CAMBRIDGE FIELD.

Pay roll	\$710.26
Broken stone	32.63
Repairing tent	20.30
Teaming	6.75

769.94

EAST CAMBRIDGE EMBANKMENT.

Pay roll	\$670.29
Teaming	261.50
Broken stone	207.60
Filling	161.50
Engineering	8.25
Fuel	6.00
Blacksmithing	2.80
Stove pipe	2.35
Tools and hardware . .	1.50

1,321.79

RINDGE FIELD.

Pay roll	\$2,042.03
Gravel	1,223.63
Teaming	681.16
Filling	326.70
Engineering	260.12

Am'ts carried forward, \$4,533.64 \$141,957.75 \$182,827.74

<i>Am'ts brought forward,</i>	\$4,533.64	\$141,957.75	\$182,827.74
Drainage system . .	51.60		
Stakes for engineers .	17.50		
Printing and advertising	3.91		

4,606.65

HASTINGS SQUARE.

Pay roll	\$663.13
Gravel	127.04
Drainage system . .	52.62
Engineering . . .	41.47
Wooden posts . . .	24.00
Teaming	18.00
Watering system . .	17.35

943.61

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

General Superintendent's salary	\$1,196.64
Landscape architect's fees	854.04
Board of horses, carriage hire, etc.	650.96
Pay roll	450.39
Car tickets for engineers	275.00
Loam	209.26
Printing and binding reports of 1897	186.93
Horse	175.00
Counsel fees	175.00
Plants and bulbs . . .	144.30
Photographs and photographic material	123.86
Rent of store room . . .	120.00
Bicycle and bicycle repairs	105.25
Carriage and carriage repairs	105.05
Heliotype cuts for reports of 1897	105.00

<i>Am'ts carried forward,</i>	\$4,876.68	\$147,508.01	\$182,827.74
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<i>Am'ts brought forward,</i>	\$4,876.68	\$147,508.01	\$182,827.74
Car tickets for office .	100.00		
Inspection by City Council	91.50		
Plans of land takings .	91.00		
Tools and hardware .	72.74		
Teaming	69.00		
Stakes for engineers .	60.15		
Garden hose . . .	55.25		
Engineering . . .	46.87		
Miscellaneous supplies for engineers . . .	45.92		
Watering cart . . .	32.00		
Rubber goods . . .	25.20		
Gravel	21.00		
Shoeing horse . . .	20.00		
Printing and advertising	17.50		
Sharpening tools . .	6.45		
Repairing boat . . .	4.63		
Blacksmithing . . .	4.55		
Lumber	3.43		
Repairing harness . .	2.75		
Express	1.40		

5,648.02

OFFICE EXPENSES.

Salary of book-keeper .	\$782.50		
Salary of stenographer .	626.00		
Stationery and printing	227.96		
Telephone service . .	182.43		
Covering chairs . .	26.50		
Map	12.00		
Car fares	7.00		
Typewriter supplies .	5.00		
Express75		

1,870.14

WINTHROP SQUARE.

Pay roll	\$113.39	113.39	
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Am'ts carried forward, \$155,139.56 \$182,827.74

Am'ts brought forward, \$155,139.56 \$182,827.74

NURSERY.

Pay roll	\$105.00	105.00	
Total			155,244.56
Balance unexpended			<u>\$27,583.18</u>

PARK MAINTENANCE.

Amount appropriated April 6, 1898 \$13,000.00

EXPENDED.

SHADE TREES.

Pay roll	\$2,981.08
Wire netting	283.73
Tools and hardware	77.22
Teaming	58.00
Loam	42.28
Trees	38.23
Spruce poles	27.50
Measuring pole	15.00
Printing and advertising	12.10
Sharpening saws	6.30
Engineering	3.88
Hose	2.77

3,548.09

COMMONS AND SQUARES.

Pay roll	\$2,919.69
Teaming	119.64
Hose	65.00
Work on flag staffs	49.36
Tools and hardware	41.92
Engineering	26.74
Repairing flags	13.50
Repairing fence at Fort Washington Square	8.25
Goal posts	4.57
Lumber	4.10
Blacksmithing50

<i>Am'ts carried forward,</i>	\$3,253.27	\$3,548.09	\$13,000.00
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<i>Am'ts brought forward,</i>	\$3,253.27	\$3,548.09	\$13,000.00
Express30		
	<hr/>	3,253.57	

THE SHELTER.

Pay roll	\$2,061.92		
Lighting	202.97		
Telephone service . .	130.60		
Plumbing and supplies .	48.82		
Toilet paper and holders	39.75		
Laundry	25.17		
Tools and hardware .	22.88		
Glass for door . . .	10.75		
Soap	9.20		
Repairing lights . .	2.38		
Carpentering	2.00		
Sponges	1.50		
Cheese cloth	1.13		
Repairing iron fence .	1.10		
Sawdust	1.00		
	<hr/>	2,561.17	

CAMBRIDGE FIELD.

Pay roll	\$2,066.77		
Teaming	70.61		
Sand	26.25		
Tools and hardware .	25.24		
Work on flag staff . .	15.75		
Flooding field . . .	9.50		
Faucets	7.50		
Blacksmithing	2.25		
Repairing flag	2.00		
Catch basin grating .	1.35		
Repairing drinking fountain	1.00		
	<hr/>	2,228.22	

NURSERY.

Pay roll	\$540.00		
Spruce poles	167.79		
	<hr/>		
<i>Am'ts carried forward,</i>	\$707.79	\$11,591.05	\$13,000.00

<i>Am'ts brought forward,</i>	\$707.79	\$11,591.05	\$13,000.00
Manure	38.09		
Rope	8.92		
Express . . . . .	.65		
	<hr/>	755.45	

PUBLIC GROUNDS.

Pay roll	\$222.32		
Loam	68.90		
Brick paving	50.11		
Watering system	43.64		
Teaming	33.75		
Engineering	23.68		
Manure	2.00		
Tools . . . . .	.40		
	<hr/>	444.80	

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Shoeing horse	\$37.00		
Board of horse	29.17		
Stationery and printing	13.50		
Repairing bicycle	13.00		
Repairing wagon	10.50		
Repairing harness	8.60		
Blanket for horse	6.25		
Tools and hardware . . . . .	.81		
	<hr/>	118.83	

RINDGE FIELD.

Pay roll	\$89.20	89.20	
		<hr/>	
Total			12,999.33
			<hr/>
Balance unexpended . . . . .		\$	.67

Respectfully submitted,

H. E. WHITING,
General Superintendent of Parks.

REPORT

OF THE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.

BROOKLINE, MASS., December 19, 1898.

*Mr. George Howland Cox, President of the Board of
Park Commissioners, Cambridge, Mass.:*

Dear Sir:—We beg to submit the following report upon the matters which have engaged our attention in connection with the Cambridge parks during the year.

We have continued to have a general oversight of the improvements executed by your General Superintendent during the past year and have conferred with members of the Board and with the Superintendent from time to time as occasion arose. In addition, we have written forty-three letters on the business of the Board and have prepared sixty-one plans, including studies, preliminary and general plans and working drawings for grading and planting. Among the designs for new improvements, the following are worthy of some description in this connection:

THE ESPLANADE.

Sufficient time having elapsed since the filling behind the sea wall for about 1,000 feet east and the same west of Harvard Bridge to allow for most of the settlement that is likely to occur, the Board began the work of preparing the surface for planting. Early in the year we prepared drawings illustrating what seemed to us a reasonable succession of degrees of elaboration in the gardening works to be undertaken on the Esplanade. The plan is, for a few years, or until there is a reasonably large number

of people using the Esplanade, to have the roads and walks built with gravel only, and to have the planting strips and central lawn covered with turf and planted only with trees in regular rows.

The second degree would be, after houses have been built in considerable numbers facing the Esplanade or near it, thus increasing the basis of taxation sufficiently to warrant the added expense of policing and gardening maintenance, to curb and macadamize or asphalt the roadways, and to have in the central lawns some beds of ornamental flowering shrubbery symmetrically disposed and with formal outlines, and some symmetrical walks, while the grass strips and central lawn would need to be kept in the most perfect condition possible.

The third degree of elaboration would come about gradually many years hence through the addition of handsome architectural embellishments, such as statues, sculptured fountains, etc., presumably largely through gifts of individuals, societies, and through popular subscriptions. At the same time, a limited amount of nice floral decorations might be introduced in the central lawns, where the trees would not interfere with them unduly.

The sub-divisions adopted for the Esplanade are as follows: Next the sea wall, a promenade 20 feet wide; then a turf strip 7.5 feet wide, with a row of trees; then a macadam driveway 40 feet wide; then a lawn 80 feet wide, with a row of trees down each side, and open in the middle; then a driveway 30 feet wide (preferably asphalted) for access to adjoining properties; then a turf strip 7.5 feet wide, with a fourth row of trees, and finally a sidewalk 15 feet wide.

CHARLES RIVER DRIVE.

The completion of this most important of all the works in charge of your Board can only be looked forward to for some years to come. The portion from the Esplanade to Brookline Street can be filled to the usual grade, but the surfacing would better be postponed until the proper lines and grades for the approaches to the proposed Charlesmouth Bridge and the probable dam shall have been determined, and the question of the

separation of the street grades from the tracks of the belt line freight railroad shall have been further discussed and a comprehensive policy adopted.

From Brookline Street to Magazine Street the lines and grades of the Charles River Drive are shown on our grading plan, submitted in May of this year. The crown of the driveway is kept uniformly at elevation 21, the same as at Boylston Street. From Magazine Street to Richardson & Bacon's coal wharf the lines and grades have never been determined in detail, because of the uncertainty as to whether our plan for passing through the river frontage of the celebrated Riverside Press would be carried out.

From Richardson & Bacon's coal wharf to Bath Street, the Charles River Drive is nearing completion in accordance with our grading plans. From Bath Street the drive is at present omitted. It is designed to be extended eventually to Gerry's Landing, where it will connect with drives proposed to be built by the Metropolitan Park Commission. Bath Street has been remodeled and now connects Charles River Drive conveniently and gracefully with Mount Auburn Street and other streets, and with the Longfellow Memorial Park.

We have recently prepared a plan for the treatment of the river bank intervening between the completed work at Mt. Auburn Street and the holding of the Metropolitan Park Commission beyond the Cambridge Hospital. This plan provides for a temporary, inexpensive treatment of the banks with a promenade and with a gravel beach like that at Mt. Auburn Street, but so arranged that all the temporary work will be utilized whenever the construction of the proposed bridge and drives of the Metropolitan Park Commission leading from the Speedway toward Mt. Auburn shall make a demand for the completion of the Charles River Drive to connect with them. The plan provides for filling out into the river (when this occurs) sufficiently to secure the same width of driveway and promenade as has been adopted elsewhere, but in order to do so an alteration of the pier and bulkhead lines will be needed, the channel remaining of the same width as now, but being shifted southward.

When the Charles River Drive and the similar work in charge

of the Metropolitan Park Commission on the Boston side of the river shall have been completed, Cambridge will be unique among American cities, so far as we know, in possessing a handsomely improved parkway frontage five miles long on what will by that time be a beautiful river, and amounting to over one third of the entire boundary of the City. Considering how much the frontages and the vicinity of parkways in all our principal cities are sought after as sites for residences, it can hardly be doubted that investors will find it to their interest to hold the vacant lands bordering on the Charles River until the proposed parkways and shore improvements have been substantially completed and their benefits generally realized, and the time becomes ripe for a good class of residences to be erected along the parkway. Thus the vast expenditures needed to redeem the river and fit it for use and enjoyment will not only yield a handsome profit to investors, but the wisdom of investors in not forcing sales at present to persons wishing cheap lands for factories, mechanics' houses and wooden apartment houses will result, it is to be hoped, in a handsome class of buildings which will be attractive to all classes of citizens, who will in time use the river and parkways and pleasure grounds along its banks in far greater numbers than have as yet frequented the already completed parkways in Boston extending along the Fens, Muddy River, Leverett Pond, Jamaica Pond and to Franklin Park.

CAPTAIN'S ISLAND PLAYGROUND.

In May we submitted a grading plan for the economical improvement of the small bit of hard land and the adjoining salt marshes. To save the cost and delay of filling over the salt marsh about five feet deep, as would be desirable for the sake of good appearance, if not for proper drainage if the tides are not to be kept out of Charles River by a dam, we provided in our plan for a temporary dyke about three feet high along the river bank, the drive being here separated from the river by the whole width of the playground. The ordinary tides having been thus excluded (though in an ugly way), it will be a comparatively inexpensive matter to drain the marshes by a system of small underground tile drains and suitable basins and tide gates. The whole can

easily be flooded for skating in winter. All that remains to be done will then be to spread a few inches of hard, loamy soil over the mucky salt marsh and to seed it down to grass. A large field suitable for ball games having been secured, it is not thought that more elaborate provisions for amusements need be made for many years.

HASTINGS SQUARE.

This small square had been planted years ago and had since had many additional trees and shrubs dotted over all remaining open space until the turf had become shaded out, the trees more or less spoiled by crowding and the effect miscellaneous and fussy. Early in the year we made a careful examination of the existing trees and shrubs and submitted a simple plan for concentrating the shrubbery into bold masses, adding smaller-growing sorts where needed, and for eliminating superfluous trees, opening up portions of the ground to the sky sufficiently to permit growing good turf and so as to obtain at the same time an agreeable contrast of plain turf against the rich shrubberies and the taller trees. All the trees which we proposed to remove have not been cut, as it was thought best to proceed cautiously in this matter, so painful to many good-hearted neighbors.

RINDGE FIELD.

Last spring we submitted a general plan, and later a grading plan, for this gently sloping field surrounded by houses and factories. Permit us to quote from our letter of transmissal:

"The plan is drawn upon the assumption that the school occupying the lot at the corner of Groveland Street and Rindge Avenue will ultimately be moved to some other situation, as we have understood will probably be the case.

"The design provides, as at Cambridge Field, for a front lawn surrounded by trees and shrubbery, to be used after the manner of any small ornamental public ground, where people may sit or stroll in enjoyment of the trees and bushes and a gently modeled greensward. Immediately south of this lawn a formal grove is proposed, the surface of which would be gravel, where children can run freely about in the shade of the trees, playing games of

tag, 'every-man-his-own-base,' and others, for which such an open grove is better adapted than any open field without obstructions, while the shade of the trees will be very grateful in the hot weather of summer. This grove is marked on our plan 'The Music Court,' and it is our expectation that band concerts would be held here occasionally, to the great enjoyment of the neighborhood. The circular affair marked 'Shelter' in the middle of the Music Court is intended to be a raised platform covered by a low conical roof, but open at the sides. At the time of concerts, this Shelter would serve as the band stand, while at other times it would give protection against sudden showers, and could include in its basement the toilet accommodations for the boys and girls who use the playground. On the other side of the Music Court, space is provided on the plan for the more active games, such as require special apparatus, or such as ought to be confined to limited areas for one reason or another. Of course, the amount of apparatus for such games to be supplied by the City is a matter which will be determined from time to time. The apparatus indicated upon the plan is intended merely as an indication of the sort of uses to which these restricted areas could be put.

"For the southern half of the field we propose a treatment of the gravel playground divided by rows of trees into a large central area and two lesser areas at the sides. As such neighborhood playgrounds as Rindge Field are not intended for use as places for large games, it is not absolutely necessary to keep so large an area of gravel as the southern half of Rindge Field entirely free from interruption, and we feel that the rows of trees suggested will rather form interesting adjuncts to the games than interfere with them in any way. The westerly row needs only to be completed by the planting of four new trees, the others being already in existence and determining, to a large extent, the arrangement of our plan. The existing trees are indicated by a black dot at the centre. We propose such an arrangement of grades that this southern half of the field can be conveniently flooded for skating in the winter, leaving the trees in small circular planting spaces slightly raised above the level of the ground so as not to be injured by this winter use."

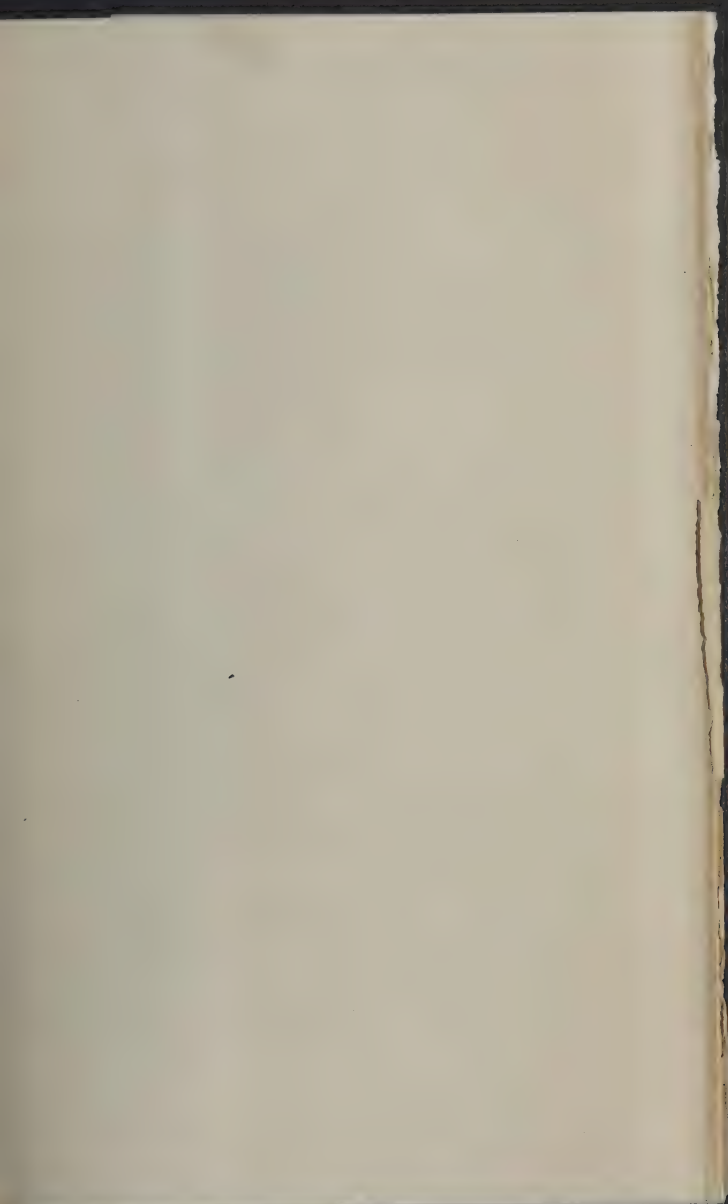
ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL.

We designed some planting about this large and important school building, intended both to give the grounds an agreeably furnished, if not decorated appearance, and likewise to bring them somewhat into harmony with the grounds of the Public Library previously planted in a similar manner. Thus the general public, as well as those using these grounds, will at comparatively little expense, derive pleasure from passing through or near them.

In conclusion, we may be permitted to point out that very substantial progress has been made, through the courageous and generous efforts of the Park Commissioners, the City Government and the citizens at large, in executing persistently and against much honest objection and doubt as to the expediency of the necessarily large expenditure, a comprehensive, well balanced, general scheme of public pleasure grounds carefully designed to meet the various requirements of the public, and to utilize or create such elements of natural or formal beauty as seemed appropriate. Not to mention smaller grounds, Cambridge Field, Broadway Square and the river bank improvement from Boylston Street to Cambridge Hospital were last summer (except for the smallness of newly planted trees) substantially completed and ready for the enjoyment of the patient and liberal citizens who helped to pay for them.

Respectfully submitted,

OLMSTED BROTHERS.





HYDRAULIC DREDGE AT WORK FILLING ESPLANADE.

REPORT OF THE CITY ENGINEER.

OFFICE OF CITY ENGINEER,

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, December 1, 1898.

Geo. Howland Cox, Esq., President Cambridge Park Commission:

Dear Sir:—There have been employed five persons on engineering work connected with the Park Department during the year. The total expenditure for engineering has been \$4,240.10.

The sea wall on Charles River near Main Street, of which mention was made in my last report, was completed in May, 1898. The total length is 2,518.6 feet, and the total amount paid the contractor was \$77,629.63. 8,817 cubic yards of stone ballast were placed back of the wall at a cost of \$12,961.14.

The work of filling the Esplanade and flats adjoining was begun by the contractors March 11, 1898, and has been continued with slight interruption night and day since. At this time the flats are substantially filled to the required grade, and the filling of the Esplanade is well advanced.

The material for the filling,—silt, sand, oyster shells, etc,—was taken by a hydraulic dredge in one operation from the bed of the river and deposited in place in the tract to be filled. At the Esplanade this filling is to be covered with at least a foot of good clean gravel. The cut shows the hydraulic dredging machine at work placing the gravel on the Esplanade.

The area of flats in possession of the City and which has been filled is:—

City wharf lot, near Main Street . . .	35,991	square feet.
F. H. Rindge lot	10,635	“ “
Esplanade, including sea wall . . .	471,360	“ “
Filled by special agreement with owner—		
B. F. Brown lot	33,220	“ “

The total payments made by the City to date on account of the filling of these lands and the Esplanade is \$33,217.36.

A considerable attention was given to the work of improvement on the Esplanade on either side of Massachusetts Avenue. About 1,230 feet on the easterly side and about 1,160 feet on the westerly side have been finished, including 5,090 feet of gravel roadway and 4,780 feet of walks. In this connection, also, forty gutter catch basins were built and about 1,710 feet of drainage pipe laid for the purpose of removing the surface water from the improved tract. Lines and grades for seeded areas, tree planting and setting curb stone, were also given.

At the Captain's Island grounds about 86,400 square feet, or nearly two acres, have been graded for a play ground, and Magazine Street extension filled from Granite Street to the park road, and the park road from Magazine Street to Brookline Street, a length of about 1,500 feet. 16,815 cubic yards of gravel were used in this work, all taken from the Charles River by the Bay State Dredging Company. As this filling crossed the outlet of the Pearl Street sewer, and would have caused a serious settlement, a section 350 feet long was relaid with a pile foundation, the expense being borne equally by the Park and Sewer Departments.

In order to exclude the salt water from the marsh land between Captain's Island and Brookline Street, a dyke became necessary on the river bank. Plans were accordingly prepared, and a contract made with Messrs. Nawn & Brock for the construction of a mud and turf dyke about 1,350 feet long, of sufficient height and stability to exclude tide water. This work is now well under way, about 450 feet of dyke having been completed and the rest being in a more or less advanced state of completion.

A plan was made of the changed and improved entrance to the parkway at Bath Street, a new lay-out of the street being adopted and the building restriction line on the parkway being extended to Mt. Auburn Street.

A survey and plan has also been made of the river bank, through the Cambridge Hospital grounds for proposed improvements there.

Plans were made for the improvement of Rindge Field and a gravel roadway on three sides of the field constructed, a total length of about 2,080 feet, and two catch basins constructed for surface water.

Very truly,

L. M. HASTINGS, *City Engineer.*

STATUTES

RELATING TO THE

PARK DEPARTMENT.

Acts, 1892.—Chap. 341.

“An Act to Authorize the City of Cambridge to Lay Out and Maintain Public Parks.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. The City of Cambridge, by its City Council, at any time within three years after the passage of this Act, may take and hold, by purchase or otherwise, any and all such real estate and lands within said City as it may deem advisable, and may lay out, maintain and improve the same as a public park or parks.

Section 2. The said City shall, within sixty days after the taking of any lands and real estate as aforesaid, otherwise than by purchase or gift, cause to be recorded in the registry of deeds for the Southern District of the County of Middlesex a description thereof sufficiently accurate for identification, with a statement of the purpose for which the same were taken, which statement shall be signed by the Mayor.

Section 3. Said City shall be liable to pay all damages sustained by any persons or corporations by the taking of, or injury to, any of their land, real estate or property, for the purposes aforesaid. If any person sustaining damage as aforesaid does not agree with said City upon the amount of said damage, he may, within one year from such taking and not afterwards, apply by petition for an assessment of the damage, to the superior court in said County of Middlesex. Such petition may be filed in the clerk's office of said court, and the clerk shall thereupon issue a summons to the said City, returnable on the first Monday of the next month after the expiration of fourteen days from the filing of the petition, to appear and answer to the petition. The summons shall be served fourteen days at least before the day at which it is returnable, by leaving a copy there-

of and of the petition, certified by the officer who serves the same, with the clerk of said City; and the court may, upon default or hearing of said City, appoint three disinterested persons who shall, after reasonable notice to the parties, assess the damages, if any, which such petitioner may have sustained as aforesaid, together with interest at the rate of four per centum per annum from the date of the actual entry and taking possession of by said City. And the award of the persons so appointed or a major part of them being returned into and accepted by the court shall be final, and judgment shall be rendered and execution issued thereon for the prevailing party, with costs, unless one of the parties claims a trial by jury, as hereinafter provided.

Section 4. If either of the parties mentioned in the preceding section is dissatisfied with the amount of damage awarded, as therein expressed, such party may, at the sitting at which such award was accepted, or the next sitting thereafter, claim in writing a trial in said court, and have a jury to hear and determine at the bar of said court all questions of fact relating to such damages, and to assess the amount thereof with interest as aforesaid; and the verdict of the jury being accepted and recorded by the court shall be final and conclusive, and judgment shall be rendered and execution issued thereon, and costs shall be recovered by the parties, respectively, in the same manner as is provided by law in regard to proceedings relating to the laying out of highways.

Section 5. In every case of a petition to the superior court for an assessment of damages as provided in this Act, the said City may tender to the petitioner or his attorney any sum, or may bring the same into court to be paid to the petitioner, for the damages by him sustained or claimed in his petition, or may in writing offer to be defaulted and that damages may be awarded against it for the sum therein expressed; and if the petitioner does not accept the sum so offered or tendered, with his costs up to that time, but proceeds with his suit, he shall be entitled to his costs to the time of such tender or payment into court, or offer of judgment, and shall not be entitled to either costs or interest afterwards, unless the amount recovered by him in such action exceeds the amount so tendered.

Section 6. At any time within two years after any land is taken or purchased for a park or parks under this Act, the Board of Aldermen of said City of Cambridge, if in its opinion any real estate in said City receives any benefit and advantage from such taking or purchasing, or from the locating and laying out of a park or parks under this Act, beyond the general advantages to all real estate in said City, may adjudge and determine the value

of such benefit and advantage to any such real estate, and may assess upon the same a proportional share of the cost of land so purchased or taken, and of the expense of laying out, grading and making such park or parks; but in no case shall the assessment exceed one half of the amount of such adjudged benefit and advantage. Said real estate subject to such assessment may include the remainder of the land of which a part is taken for said public park or parks, and real estate which does not abut upon the park, from the laying out of which the betterments accrue, or upon a street or way bounded upon such park.

Section 7. Assessments made under the preceding section shall constitute a lien upon the real estate so assessed and shall be collected and enforced, with the same rights to owners to surrender their estates, and the same proceedings thereupon, and with the same rights of and proceedings upon appeal, as are provided by chapter fifty-one of the Public Statutes.

Section 8. For the purpose of defraying the cost of such real estate and lands as may be purchased, taken or held for the purposes aforesaid, and of constructing the park or parks authorized by this Act, and paying all expenses incident thereto, the City Council of Cambridge shall have authority to issue, in excess of the limit allowed by law, scrip or bonds to be denominated on the face thereof, Cambridge Park Loan, to an amount not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars, bearing interest not exceeding four and one-half per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, the principal to be payable at periods of not more than thirty years from the issuing of such scrip or bonds respectively. Said City Council may sell the same or any part thereof from time to time, or pledge the same for money borrowed for the above purposes; but the same shall not be sold or pledged for less than the par value thereof. The provisions of the tenth and eleventh sections of chapter twenty-nine of the Public Statutes shall, so far as applicable, apply to this Act.

Section 9. If the City of Cambridge shall accept the provisions of chapter one hundred and fifty-four of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two and Acts in amendment thereof, then all lands and real estate which may be taken by virtue of this Act shall be under the care and management of the Board of Park Commissioners of said City authorized to be appointed by virtue of said Act.

Section 10. This Act shall take effect upon its acceptance by the City Council of Cambridge.

Approved June 2, 1892.

Acts, 1893.—Chap. 337.

“An Act Relative to Public Parks in the City of Cambridge.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. Section one of chapter three hundred and forty-one of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-two is hereby amended by striking out in the second line, the words “within three years,” by inserting in the fifth line, after the word “advisable,” the words: “upon the recommendation of the Board of Park Commissioners hereinafter mentioned,” and by adding at the end thereof the words: “The fee of such real estate and lands shall vest in said City,” so as to read as follows: Section 1. The City of Cambridge by its City Council, at any time after the passage of this Act, may take and hold, by purchase or otherwise, any and all such real estate and lands within said City as it may deem advisable, upon the recommendation of the Board of Park Commissioners hereinafter mentioned, and may lay out, maintain and improve the same as a public park or parks. The fee of such real estate and lands shall vest in said City.

Section 2. Section eight of said chapter is hereby amended by striking out in the ninth line, the word “two,” and inserting in place thereof the word: “five,” so as to read as follows: Section 8. For the purpose of defraying the cost of such real estate and lands as may be purchased, taken or held for the purposes aforesaid, and of constructing the park or parks authorized by this Act, and paying all expenses incident thereto, the City Council of Cambridge shall have authority to issue, in excess of the limit allowed by law, scrip or bonds to be denominated on the face thereof, Cambridge Park Loan, to an amount not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars, bearing interest not exceeding four and one half per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, the principal to be payable at periods of not more than thirty years from the issuing of such scrip or bonds respectively. Said City Council may sell the same or any part thereof from time to time, or pledge the same for money borrowed for the above purposes; but the same shall not be sold or pledged for less than the par value thereof. The provisions of the tenth and eleventh sections of chapter twenty-nine of the Public Statutes shall, so far as applicable, apply to this Act.

Section 3. Said City may make rules for the use and government of such park or parks, and for breaches of such rules affix penalties, not exceeding twenty dollars for one offence, to be imposed by any court of competent jurisdiction; may appoint a police force to act in such parks, and generally may do all acts

needful for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to or imposed upon such City by this Act and said chapter: provided, however, that no land shall be taken or any other thing involving an expenditure of money be done under this Act or said chapter until an appropriation sufficient to cover the estimated expense thereof shall have been made by a vote of two thirds of each branch of the City Council; and such expenditures shall in no case exceed the appropriations made therefor, and all contracts made for expenditures beyond the amount of such appropriations shall be void.

*Section 4. All the rights, powers and authority given to the City of Cambridge by this Act and by said chapter, except for the taking of land and assessment of betterments, shall be exercised by said City, subject to all duties, liabilities and restrictions herein contained, through a board of persons to be appointed by said City, who shall be styled Park Commissioners.

Section 5. Section nine of chapter three hundred and forty-one of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-two is hereby repealed.

Section 6. This Act shall take effect upon its acceptance by the City Council of Cambridge.

Approved May 12, 1893.

*Amended as follows:—

Acts, 1894.—Chap. 116.

“An Act Relating to Public Parks in the City of Cambridge.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. Section four of chapter three hundred and thirty-seven of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-three is hereby amended by striking out in the third line, the word “and,” and by inserting in the fourth line, after the word “betterments,” the words: “issuing of bonds and borrowing of money,” so as to read as follows: Section 4. All the rights, powers and authority given to the City of Cambridge by this Act and by said chapter, except for the taking of land, assessment of betterments, issuing of bonds and borrowing of money, shall be exercised by said City, subject to all duties, liabilities and restrictions herein contained, through a board of persons to be appointed by said City, who shall be styled Park Commissioners.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved March 15, 1894.

Acts, 1894.—Chap. 89.

“An Act to Authorize the City of Cambridge to Make an Additional Park Loan.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. The City of Cambridge, by its City Council, is hereby authorized to issue, in excess of the limit allowed by law, scrip or bonds to be denominated on the face thereof, Cambridge Park Loan, to an amount not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars each year for five years, commencing in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-five, bearing interest not exceeding four per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, the principal to be payable at periods of not more than forty years from the issuing of such scrip or bonds respectively. The proceeds of said loans shall be used in settling unpaid damages for property purchased, taken or held, and which hereafter may be purchased, taken or held, for a public park or parks, as authorized by chapter three hundred and forty-one of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-two, and by chapter three hundred and thirty-seven of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-three, and any and all Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto; for constructing, completing and maintaining said park or parks; and for any and all other purposes connected with and incident to the protection, renewal, enlargement, adornment and construction of a public park or parks in said City of Cambridge. Said City Council may sell said scrip or bonds, or any part thereof, from time to time, or pledge the same for money borrowed for the above purposes; but the same shall not be sold or pledged for less than the par value thereof.

Section 2. The provisions of the tenth and eleventh sections of chapter twenty-nine of the Public Statutes shall, so far as applicable, apply to said loan.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved March 9, 1894.

Acts, 1895.—Chap. 236.

“An Act to Authorize the City of Cambridge to Place all Parks and Commons Therein under the Care and Control of its Park Commissioners, and to Provide for Expense of the Reconstruction of Such Parks and Commons.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. The City of Cambridge, by its City Council, may

from time to time place its parks and commons now occupied and used, and that may hereafter be established, set apart, occupied and used in said City as parks or commons, under the care and control of its Park Commissioners, with all the rights and privileges and subject to all the provisions and regulations contained in chapter three hundred and forty-one of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-two, chapter three hundred and thirty-seven of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-three and chapter one hundred and sixteen of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-four.

Section 2. The Park Commissioners of said City may reconstruct all such parks and commons as may be placed under their care and control by the City Council under the provisions of section one of this Act, and for that purpose may use, as may be necessary, the proceeds of the loans authorized under said chapters and chapter eighty-nine of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-four.

Section 3. Sections one and three of chapter six of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and thirty are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect upon its acceptance by the City Council of Cambridge.

Approved April 6, 1895.

Acts, 1896.—Chap. 320.

“An Act Relative to Public Parks in the City of Cambridge.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. If the City of Cambridge, under the authority heretofore granted to it, should deem it advisable to take and hold for park purposes, and should hereafter take and hold for park purposes, by purchase or otherwise, the whole or any part of the land in said City which is bounded northerly by Western Avenue, easterly by Blackstone Street, southerly by land of the Cambridgeport Dairy Company, easterly again by said land last named, southerly again by the northerly line of Albion Street, and westerly by the westerly line of Ampere Street, including Ampere Street, it may thereupon exchange for other land or lands within said territory now owned or held by it or which it may hereafter for park purposes take and hold, by purchase or otherwise, including Ampere Street, upon such terms and agreements and in such manner as may be mutually agreed upon between said City and the owner or owners of such lands, or it may

sell and convey the lands so taken and held, or any part thereof.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 27, 1896.

Acts, 1896.—Chap. 508.

“An Act Relative to the Construction of a Sea Wall Along Charles River in the City of Cambridge.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. If the City of Cambridge, by its City Council, acting under the authority heretofore given to it by Acts of the General Court, should hereafter take and hold by purchase or otherwise, for park purposes, a certain parcel of land situated in said City and bounded as follows: Southerly by the United States pier and bulkhead line, established in accordance with the statutes of the United States and approved by the Secretary of War on the thirteenth day of February in the year eighteen hundred and ninety, twenty-five hundred and twenty-two feet, more or less; northwesterly by land of The Charles River Embankment Company, two hundred and thirty-one and thirteen one hundredths feet; northerly by a line parallel with said pier and bulkhead line, and two hundred feet distant northerly therefrom, twenty-one hundred and seventy-five feet, more or less, and northeasterly by Main Street and West Boston Bridge, two hundred and fifty-four feet, the said City of Cambridge may by its Board of Park Commissioners, subject to the approval of the Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners, build a solid sea wall upon the entire southerly line of said parcel of land, the southerly face of which wall shall coincide with the said pier and bulkhead line, between the two termini of said southerly line, and fill to established grades the land included in the foregoing description, so that the level of the same when filled shall coincide with the grade of said West Boston Bridge and with the grade of the said adjoining land of The Charles River Embankment Company.

Section 2. The material used for doing the filling hereby authorized shall be dredged from the flats on the northerly side of the channel of Charles River basin, lying between West Boston Bridge and Harvard Bridge, in such places and to such depths as the Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners, having due regard to the requirements of navigation, the improvement of said basin and the quality of material suitable for such filling, shall from time to time prescribe. All the work in tide water

shall be subject to the provisions of all general laws applicable thereto.

Section 3. Said City shall be liable to pay all damages sustained by any persons or corporations by the taking or injury to any of their land, real estate or property for the purposes aforesaid, under and by virtue of this Act, so far as provision for the payment of such damages has not heretofore been made by chapter three hundred and forty-one of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-two and the amendments thereof; and the proceedings for the recovery of such additional damages, if any, as to the time and manner of recovery, and in all other respects, shall be the same as provided in said Act and said amendments.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved June 6, 1896.

Acts, 1897.—Chap. 169.

“An Act Transferring to the Park Commissioners of the City of Cambridge all the Powers and Authority now Vested by Law in the Board of Aldermen in Relation to the Removal of Trees.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. All the powers vested at the time of the passage of this Act in the Board of Aldermen of the City of Cambridge, in respect to the removal of trees in streets, roads, squares, courts, parks, public gardens and other enclosures, are hereby transferred to the Park Commissioners of said City, and said Commissioners shall hereafter have exclusive power to act in respect to the removal of such trees.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved March 18, 1897.

Acts, 1897.—Chap. 469.

“An Act to Authorize the City of Cambridge to Incur Indebtedness Beyond the Limit Fixed by Law for the Purpose of the Extension of the Esplanade.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. The City of Cambridge by its City Council, is hereby authorized to issue from time to time, or at any one time,

in addition to the amounts now authorized by law, notes, scrip or bonds, to be denominated on the face thereof, Cambridge Charles River Improvement Loan, the total amount thereof not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars, bearing interest not exceeding four per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, the principal to be payable at periods of not more than forty years from the issuing of such notes, scrip or bonds, respectively. The proceeds of said loans shall be used for the purpose of the extension of the Esplanade, so-called, from the northeasterly end of the Esplanade, as now constructed, to Main Street; to pay the damages sustained by any person or corporations by the taking of or injury to any of their real estate or property for the purpose aforesaid; to meet and provide for the construction of the said Esplanade, including the cost of a sea wall and the filling of the flats included within the limits of the land taken, held or purchased for the extension of said Esplanade, and for all other costs and expenses incident thereto.

Section 2. The provisions of sections ten and eleven of chapter twenty-nine of the Public Statutes shall, so far as applicable, apply to said loan.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved June 5, 1897.

Acts, 1898.—Chap. 133.

“An Act to Authorize the City of Cambridge to Refund Certain Sums of Money Paid on Account of Park Betterments.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. The City of Cambridge may refund to the parties who without protest, prior to the passage of this Act, have overpaid to the City certain park assessments, by reason of discounts subsequently allowed on the same, such sums of money as the City Council shall by vote determine and the Mayor shall approve, to the amount of the discount allowed in each case.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved March 3, 1898.

CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM ACROSS CHARLES RIVER.

Acts, 1898.—Chap. 531.

“An Act to Authorize the Construction of a Dam Across the Charles River, Between the Cities of Boston and Cambridge.”

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Metropolitan Park Commissioners, constituted under the authority of chapter four hundred and seven of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-three, is hereby authorized and directed to construct and maintain a dam, with a suitable lock or locks, across the Charles River, from a point at or about the intersection of Saint Mary's Street extended in the City of Boston with said river, and a point in Cambridge nearly opposite Saint Mary's Street extended, and for this purpose may exercise, in addition to the powers herein conferred, all the powers conferred upon said Board by said chapter four hundred and seven of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-three and all Acts in amendment thereof and in addition thereto. Said Board is authorized to apply for and take all necessary steps to obtain the approval of the Secretary of War or other proper authority of the United States for carrying out the purposes of this Act. Each member of said Board shall be paid his actual travelling expenses and all such other expenses as may be incurred by him in the performance of his duties under this Act, and also any such compensation for services when absent from the Commonwealth as shall be allowed by the Governor and Council.

Section 2. To meet the expenses incurred under the provisions of this Act the Treasurer and Receiver General shall, with the approval of the Governor and Council, issue scrip or certificates of debt in the name and behalf of the Commonwealth and under its seal, to an amount not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars, for a term not exceeding forty years, such scrip or certificates of debt to be issued at such times, within one year after the approval by the United States Government of the building of said dam, as the Treasurer and Receiver General shall determine. Said scrip or certificates of debt shall be issued as registered bonds or with interest coupons attached, shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding four per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually on the first days of January and July in each year, shall be designated on their face as the Charles River Improvement Loan, shall be countersigned by the Governor and shall be deemed a pledge of the faith and credit of the Commonwealth; and the principal and interest shall be paid at the time specified therein in gold coin of the United States; and said scrip or certificates of debt shall be sold and disposed of at public auction or in such other mode, and at such times and prices, and in such amounts, and at such rates of interest, not exceeding the rate above specified, as the Governor and Council shall deem best. The Treasurer and Receiver General shall on issuing any of said scrip or certificates of debt establish a sinking fund and

apportion an amount to be paid thereto each year sufficient with its accumulations to extinguish the debt at maturity. Any premium realized on the sale of said scrip or certificates of debt shall be applied to the payment of the interest on said loan as it accrues.

Section 3. The Supreme Judicial Court sitting in equity shall, on the application of said Board and after notice to the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Newton, and the Town of Watertown, appoint three commissioners, who shall not be residents of said cities or town, who shall after due notice and hearing and in such manner as they shall deem best and equitable determine the proportion in which said cities and town, respectively, shall annually pay money into the treasury of the Commonwealth for the term of five years next following the year of the first issue of said scrip or certificates of debt, to meet the interest and sinking fund requirements for each of said years as estimated by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, and to meet the expenses of maintenance of said dam as estimated by said board and certified by said Treasurer, and any deficiency in the amount previously paid in as found by said Treasurer, and shall return their award into said court; and when said award shall have been accepted by said court the same shall be a final and conclusive adjudication of all matters herein referred to said commissioners, and shall be binding on all parties.. Before the expiration of said term of five years, and every five years thereafter, three such commissioners shall again be appointed as aforesaid, with the same duties and powers with reference to the next succeeding term of five years.

Section 4. The amount of money required each year from each city and town hereinbefore named to meet the interest and sinking fund requirements and expenses aforesaid for each year, and deficiency, if any, shall be estimated by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth in accordance with the proportion determined as aforesaid, and shall be included in and made a part of the sum charged to such city or town, and be assessed upon it in the apportionment and assessment of its annual state tax; and said Treasurer shall in each year notify each city and town of the amount of such assessment, and the same shall be paid by the city or town into the treasury of the Commonwealth at the time required for the payment and as a part of its state tax.

Section 5. The Supreme Judicial Court shall have jurisdiction in equity to enforce the provisions of this Act, and shall fix and determine the compensation of all commissioners appointed by said court under the provisions hereof.

Section 6. No action shall be taken relative to the construc-

tion and maintenance of said dam, under the provisions of this Act, until all plans therefor have been duly submitted to the Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners and received the approval of said Board.

Section 7. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved June 14, 1898.

ORDINANCES

RELATING TO THE

PARK DEPARTMENT.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

In the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four.

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN CITY ORDINANCES.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Cambridge, as follows:—

The Revised Ordinances of 1892 are hereby amended in the following Chapters, viz.:

In Chapter 1, Section 9. By striking out the words "Superintendent of Streets," in the third line, and inserting in place thereof the words "Park Commissioners or the Water Board."

In Chapter 24, Section 2. By striking out in the third line the word "commons," and in the fourth line the words "and enclosures;" also by inserting in the third line, after the word "bridges," the word "and."

In Chapter 24, Section 3. By striking out the entire section.

An ordinance establishing a Park Department, approved July 11, 1893, is hereby amended by inserting in Section 8, second line, after the word "to," the words "the trees in the public streets and," and by adding the following sections, viz.:

Sect. 10. The Park Commissioners, in addition to the general care and charge of parks and public grounds imposed upon them by the foregoing provisions, shall have the general care and charge of all the other commons, public grounds and enclosures now belonging, and as the same may hereafter belong to the City, and not under the general care of the Water Board.

Sect. 11. The Park Commissioners shall have the care of the trees in the public streets. They shall cause all statutes and ordinances made for the protection of said trees, the commons and other public grounds and enclosures not under the general care and charge of the Water Board, to be strictly enforced,

and shall institute legal proceedings against all persons violating such statutes and ordinances.

As amended the section of Chapter 1 of the Revised Ordinances of 1892, before mentioned, and the ordinance establishing a Park Department, will read as follows:

REVISED ORDINANCES OF 1892.

Chapter 1, Section 9. The words "public grounds" shall include the commons and all public lands placed by the City Council under the charge of the Park Commissioners or the Water Board, and those parts of public places which do not form travelled parts of highways.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PARK DEPARTMENT.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Cambridge, as follows:

Section 1. The Park Department shall be under the charge of a Board of three persons, to be styled Park Commissioners, who shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to the confirmation of the Board of Aldermen, and they shall hold their office until the expiration of terms of one, two and three years respectively, from the first day of May, 1893. The Mayor shall, subject to like confirmation, before the first day of May in each year after the year 1893, appoint a commissioner to continue in office for the term of three years from said day. No person shall be a commissioner who is at the same time a member of the City Council. Any vacancy occurring in the said board shall be filled for the residue of the term of the commissioner whose place is to be filled, in the same manner in which such commissioner was originally appointed. Said commissioners shall, in addition to the above term, hold office until others are appointed in their respective places.

Sect. 2. The President of the Park Commissioners shall be elected by the Board, and shall be one of the persons appointed as provided in the first section of this chapter. The Board may make such rules and regulations for its own government, and in relation to its officers, as may be deemed expedient.

Sect. 3. The Board so constituted shall have and exercise all the rights, powers and authority given to it and to the City Council by the Legislature, by the three hundred and forty-first chapter of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-two, and

by the three hundred and thirty-seventh chapter of the Acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-three, and by any acts in addition to either of said acts which may hereafter be enacted, so far as the same can be legally delegated by the City, subject to all the duties, liabilities and restrictions in said last named chapter contained. Said commissioners may in their discretion annually appoint a superintendent, a clerk, and all other subordinate agents and assistants, who shall be removed at their pleasure, and fix their compensation subject to the approval of the Committee on Finance.

Sect. 4. The Board, on or before the fifteenth day of December in each year, shall present to the City Council a report containing a statement of the condition of all the parks and lands under its control or supervision, and of other property connected therewith, with an account of all receipts, and expenditures, together with any information or suggestions which it may deem important; and if a superintendent has been appointed, it shall at the same time transmit to the City Council his report.

Sect. 5. The Board may sell such of the personal property connected with said parks or lands as it may deem expedient, subject to the approval of the Mayor.

Sect. 6. The President of the Board shall exercise a general supervision over all said parks and lands, and the materials and property connected therewith, and over all subordinate officers and agents. In case of his absence or disability, his duties may be performed by a president pro tempore, to be chosen by the Board.

Sect. 7. No member of the Board, and no person appointed to any office or employed by virtue of this chapter or of the Acts of the Legislature mentioned in the third section of this chapter, shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract, bargain, sale or agreement, in relation to said parks or lands, or any matter or thing connected therewith, wherein the City is interested; and any and all contracts, bargains, sales or agreements made in violation of this section, shall be void as to the City.

Sect. 8. The Superintendent shall perform all such services in relation to the trees in the public streets and said parks and lands as may be required of him by the Board, and he shall annually, during the first week in December, present to the Board a report of the general condition of said parks and lands.

Sect. 9. The Board may require the City Engineer, either by himself or by his assistants, to perform all work which properly comes within the province and under the direction of a civil engineer, including the making of examinations and surveys, the preparation of statements, plans, profiles, estimates, descrip-

tions, specifications and contracts, and the measuring of the work done by contract and certifying to the results of such measurement.

Sect. 10. The Park Commissioners, in addition to the general care and charge of parks and public grounds imposed upon them by the foregoing provisions, shall have the general care and charge of all the other commons, public grounds and enclosures now belonging, and as the same may hereafter belong to the City, and not under the general care of the Water Board.

Sect. 11. The Park Commissioners shall have the care of the trees in the public streets. They shall cause all statutes and ordinances made for the protection of said trees, the commons and other public grounds and enclosures not under the care and charge of the Water Board, to be strictly enforced, and shall institute legal proceedings against all persons violating such statutes and ordinances.

In Common Council, March 6, 1894.

Passed to be ordained.

In Board of Aldermen, March 6, 1894.

Passed to be ordained.

March 13, 1894. Approved by the Mayor.



